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Thursday



Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad hailed the report.

Iranian 'Victory': Leader calls U.S. report vindication | **11**

Runway Hazards: Report warns of high collision risk | **7**



Short Week: Weary Redskins prep for game vs. Bears | **17**

WeekendPass

Screen Gems: Terence Blanchard's movie music for Spike Lee hits the stage.

>> **INSIDE**



Gunman Opens Fire in Omaha Mall; 9 Dead



IN SHOCK: Shoppers and employees wait in the cold for news from inside Westroads Mall in Omaha, Neb., on Wednesday. A gunman opened fire inside the mall's busy Von Maur department store, killing eight people before taking his own life. ♦ **Suicide note:** Shooter wanted to "go out in style" | **Page 3**

Mortgage Rate Freeze OK'd

Bush plan will fix rates on some subprime loans for 5 years

WASHINGTON | The Bush administration has hammered out an agreement to freeze interest rates for certain subprime mortgages for five years to combat a soaring tide of foreclosures, congressional aides said Wednesday.

The aides, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the details have not yet been released, said the five-year moratorium represented a compromise between desires by banking regulators for a longer time frame

of up to seven years and mortgage industry arguments that the freeze should last only one or two years.

Another person familiar with the matter said the rate-freeze plan would apply to borrowers with loans made at the start of 2005 through July 30 of this year with rates that are scheduled to rise between Jan. 1, 2008, and July 31, 2010.

The administration said President Bush will

sign the agreement at the White House on Thursday, and the Treasury Department announced that Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson would hold a joint news conference Thursday afternoon with mortgage industry officials.

Paulson, who has been leading the effort to craft a plan, said on Monday that the program would be available only for owner-occupied homes — to ensure the break is not given to real estate speculators. MARTIN CRUTSINGER (AP)

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Q WHO DESERVES MORE BLAME FOR PROBLEMS CAUSED BY SUBPRIME LOANS? **A** BANKS **B** BORROWERS

TO VOTE, VISIT READEXPRESS.COM OR TEXT **A** OR **B** TO WPOST (97678) | RESULTS, PAGE 40

THURSDAY 38/25 **FRIDAY** 45/37 **SATURDAY** 51/36

TODAY: A cold and mostly sunny day with light northwest winds | **38**

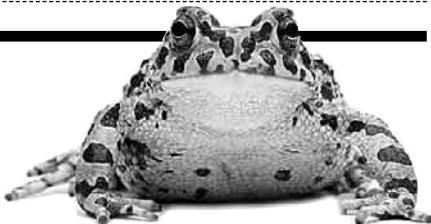
eyeOpeners

TOADS

3 Are Arrested In Terrarium Raid

Authorities have discovered a troubling new method of getting high.

"Toad smoking" is done by extracting venom from the Sonoran Desert toad. Its venom, secreted when the animal gets angry or scared, contains a hallucinogen called bufotenine that can be dried and smoked. In October, a Kansas City, Mo., man was charged with possessing a controlled substance after authorities determined he possessed a toad with the intent to get high. Prosecutor Daniel White said possessing the toad is not illegal, but using it to get high off its venom is. "It is easier to get it, and law enforcement might not immediately know you use it," White said. (AP)



CHILDREN

Toy Steam Shovel Taken Too Literally

A Suffolk County, Mass., longshoreman admitted to putting his 4-year-old son on his employer's payroll as a heavy equipment operator, the Boston Globe reported. Brendan Lee, 40,

was one of several indicted for putting six children on the Massport payroll. While the scheme didn't bring them cash, it would have ensured the kids would already be high in the ranks of the International Longshoremen's Association, their union, if they chose to join as adults, according to the Globe. (EXPRESS)



CHUNG SUNG-JUN/GETTY IMAGES

FEMINISM

Down With Polar Patriarchy

A Santa Claus School class held at the Everland amusement park outside Seoul drew scads of young wannabe gift-deliverers on Wednesday. In South Korea, as opposed to in the United States, Santa doesn't have to be male, obese or of Anglo-Saxon descent. (AP)

SAD

Kindness Doesn't Pay. Happy Holidays!

Be careful about what you pick up in the subway. New Yorker Carlos Alayo said he learned that lesson when he picked up a derelict wallet from a subway platform bench. He said he intended to find its owner and return it, but as he went to board the G train, he was stopped (but not charged or arrested) by police. He'd been ensnared in Operation Lucky Bag, an initiative from the New York City Police Department to lay decoys — shopping bags, purses, backpacks or wallets — around the subway system to see what passers-by will do. (AP)



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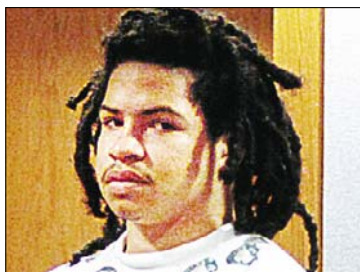
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3

The percentage teen births increased in the U.S. from 2005 to 2006, the first rise recorded since 1991, the government reported on Wednesday. The rate jumped to nearly 42 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19, up from 40.5 in 2005.

Nation

In Brief



Eric Rivera, 17, is accused of shooting Sean Taylor at his home in Miami.

MIAMI

Alleged Taylor Gunman May Work With Prosecutors

An attorney for the 17-year-old accused of being the gunman in the killing of Washington Redskins star Sean Taylor wants to work with prosecutors to resolve the case. Sawyer Smith, who is representing Eric Rivera, said Wednesday his client was admitting no wrongdoing yet. "Plea negotiations are typical in criminal cases. However, we don't know when or if that will occur," Smith said. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Scientists Enter Fight Over Emissions With Petition

For the first time, more than 200 of the world's leading climate scientists urged government leaders to take radical action to slow global warming because "there is no time to lose." A petition from at least 215 climate scientists calls for the world to cut in half greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It is directed at a conference of diplomats meeting in Bali, Indonesia, next week. (AP)



Larissa Starchenko, left, an employee who was in the Von Maur store when a man opened fire, is comforted by her daughter.

Gunman Attacks Mall

Shooter kills 8 people, wounds others before killing himself in store

OMAHA, NEB. | A man opened fire with a rifle at a busy department store Wednesday, killing eight people before taking his own life, in an attack that made holiday shoppers run screaming through a mall and barricade themselves in dressing rooms. Five more people were wounded, two critically.

The gunman left a suicide note



Women stand outside the Von Maur store in Omaha after being evacuated.

that was found at his home by his mother, said a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak. TV station KETV reported that the note said he wanted to "go out in style."

The official identified the gunman as Robert A. Hawkins, age 19 or 20.

Witnesses said the gunman fired down on shoppers from a third-floor balcony of the Von Maur store. He was found dead on the third floor with a self-inflicted gunshot wound,

and his victims were discovered on the second and third floors, police said.

"My knees rocked. I didn't know what to do, so I just ran with everybody else," said Kevin Kleine, 29, who was shopping with her 4-year-old daughter at the Westroads Mall.

Sgt. Teresa Negron said police received a 911 call from someone inside the mall, and shots could

“People started screaming about gunshots. I grabbed my wife and kids, and we got out of there.”

SHAWN VIDLAK, SHOOTING WITNESS

be heard in the background. By the time officers arrived six minutes later, the shooting was over, she said.

A witness, Shawn Vidlak, said the shots sounded like a nail gun.

"People started screaming about gunshots," Vidlak said. "I grabbed my wife and kids, and we got out of there as fast as we could."

Shortly after the shooting, which came three weeks before Christmas, a group of shoppers came out of the building with their hands raised. Some were holding shopping bags.

Police told people to park their cars across from the mall and to wait for their loved ones, then directed them to an Omaha hotel to await information. OSKAR GARCIA (AP)



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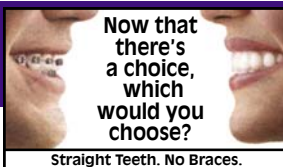
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Nation



MY KIND OF STAMP: Classic crooner Frank Sinatra will be immortalized in postage next spring, U.S. Postmaster General John Potter announced on Wednesday.

Tanker Fire Burns Homes

River of 9,400 gallons of flaming oil damages Mass. neighborhood

EVERETT, MASS. | Jolted from bed by a thunderous explosion, John Malone looked out the window to see a flaming river of fuel flowing toward his apartment from an overturned tanker truck.

"I just grabbed my girlfriend and her aunt and ran," said the 28-year-old machinist.

Malone was not hurt, and safety officials were surprised and grateful that no one else was either after the accident early Wednesday that spilled 9,400 gallons of burning fuel into a sleeping community.

Witnesses said a 10-foot wall of flames flowed through the neighborhood below a rotary where the tanker flipped, blowing up cars and destroying two triple-decker homes, including Malone's.

Firefighters initially were hampered by icy conditions, but they



Firefighters in Everett, Mass., battle a blaze that started when a tanker carrying about 9,000 gallons of gasoline overturned in a traffic circle early on Wednesday.

were able to contain the fire.

State police said the driver of the tanker, Chad LaFrance, 30, of Dover, N.H., was going too fast when the tanker flipped and hit a guardrail around 1:40 a.m.

Dylan Constantine, 32, said he was half-asleep watching TV when an explosion that "sounded

like a shotgun blast" jolted him wide awake. He roused his roommates and they took off, at one point jumping through a wall of burning fuel that was flowing past his house.

Outside, cars were exploding one after the other, and Constantine saw a man trying to drive away in a burning vehicle. JAY LINDSAY (AP)

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Nation

"Do you really believe if we replace a crowd of corporate Republicans with a crowd of corporate Democrats that anything meaningful is going to change?"

—John Edwards, speaking against corruption in a new campaign ad that is airing in New Hampshire



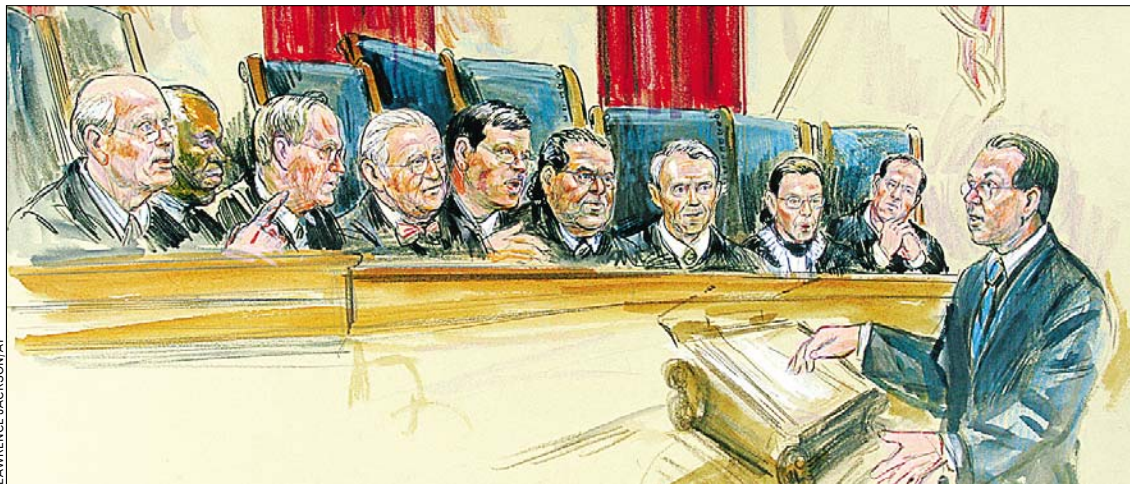
High Court Hears Gitmo Arguments

Lawyer asserts limited court review available to detainees is flawed

WASHINGTON | The Supreme Court debated the rights of foreign terrorism suspects held at Guantanamo Bay on Wednesday for the third time since 2004, a legal struggle that could still be around when a new president takes office in 13 months.

Most questions from the justices seemed to accept that the 305 men held at the U.S. naval base in Cuba have some rights to challenge their detention.

Instead, the key question that emerged Wednesday was whether the limited court review created by the Bush administration and Congress in response to earlier Supreme



The Supreme Court justices are shown listening to arguments about the rights of detainees Wednesday in this artist's rendering.

Court rulings for the detainees is good enough.

The court's resolution of this matter, expected in a decision in the spring, could determine whether

the detainees receive prompt hearings that might result in freedom for some or face many more months, even years, of legal proceedings and imprisonment.

The court has twice ruled that people held at Guantanamo Bay without charges can go into civilian courts to seek their freedom. Each time, the administration

and Congress, then controlled by Republicans, has changed the law to try to close the courthouse doors to the detainees.

In his written argument, Solicitor General Paul Clement said for foreigners captured and held outside the U.S. "have no constitutional rights to petition our courts for a writ of habeas corpus."

Seth Waxman, the detainees' lawyer, said that review is "structurally flawed" and pleaded for prompt hearings for his clients after their lengthy detention.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Antonin Scalia were most interested in pressing Waxman on whether the detainees have any right to a court hearing.

"Show me one case" down through the centuries where circumstances similar to those at Guantanamo Bay entitled "an alien" to challenge his detention in civilian courts, Scalia challenged.

MARK SHERMAN (AP)

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Nation



Airplanes line up for takeoff on one of LaGuardia Airport's two runways in New York. A Boeing 737 nearly collided with a commuter jet at the airport in July.

GAO Spots Peril On U.S. Runways

Study says chances for 'catastrophic collision' increasing at airports

WASHINGTON | Air travelers face a high risk of a catastrophic collision on a U.S. airport runway because of faltering federal leadership, malfunctioning technology and overworked air traffic controllers, congressional investigators concluded Wednesday.

The investigators gave the Federal Aviation Administration credit for reducing runway safety incidents from a peak in 2001 but said the "FAA's runway safety efforts subsequently waned" as the number of incidents settled at a lower level.

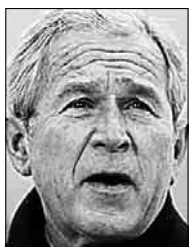
Then in fiscal 2007, the incidents spiked to 370, or 6.05 runway incursions per 1 million air traffic con-

trol operations, almost returning to 2001's 407 incursions and 6.1 rate. An incursion is any aircraft, vehicle or person that enters space reserved for takeoff or landing.

Even though serious incursions, in which a collision was narrowly averted, declined to a record low 24 in 2007 from 31 the year before, the GAO report said they have remained high enough to pose "a high risk of a catastrophic runway collision."

This year has seen dramatic near-misses. On Aug. 16, two jets came within 37 feet of colliding in Los Angeles. A Delta Boeing 757 touched down in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in July and had to take off immediately to avoid hitting another plane. And a Delta Boeing 737 landing at New York's LaGuardia Airport in July narrowly missed a commuter jet. MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN (AP)

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World



"People elected me because I can speak my own mind, not because I toe some party line."

— **Anson Chan, 67**, an outspoken advocate of democracy, who was sworn in to Hong Kong's legislature on Wednesday.

More U.S. Troops Requested in Iraq

U.S. commanders in Iraq say troop increase is needed to keep peace

BAGHDAD | U.S. military commanders in northern Iraq told Defense Secretary Robert Gates here Wednesday that they need more troops to battle increased attacks by al-Qaeda terrorists who have fled north after being pushed out of the Baghdad region.

The call for the movement of Iraqi and U.S. forces into the north comes as Gates hailed the improved security in Baghdad and said a sta-

ble Iraq is within reach. Just before Gates spoke in the heavily fortified Green Zone, however, a car bomb exploded across the Tigris River in a largely Shiite Baghdad neighborhood, killing at least 14 people, police said.



Gates

In Mosul, Army Col. Tony Thomas, deputy commander of U.S. forces in the north, said that commanders would like more U.S. troops, as well as the return of 1,400 Iraqi troops who were sent to Baghdad as part

of the military buildup there earlier this year. The plan could shift extra troops from other areas of the country that are more secure.

Thomas would not say how many troops are needed or where they would be deployed, but he said the U.S. needs more combat power to help stabilize a number of areas — including Diyala province, Mosul and Samara — to help counter an uptick in violence, including suicide bombings. He said military leaders are still discussing the issue, and have made no final decisions.

Gates acknowledged the new challenges in the north.

"What I heard them say was that they ... did need some additional forces ... particularly west of the river," said Gates, who appeared at a press briefing with Iraqi Defense Minister Abdul-Qader al-Obeidi. He said that as military operations in Baghdad pushed al-Qaida north, there was a "resulting increase in terrorist activities in Mosul and surrounding areas as al-Qaida tried to establish a new foothold."

Gates is using his latest unannounced trip to Iraq to assess whether the downturn in violence in parts of the country can be sustained. **LOLITA C. BALDOR (AP)**



Jews rebury the remains of Stephen Theodore Norman on Wednesday.

Descendent Of Herzl's Reinterred

Grandson of Zionism's founder is reburied in Israel after 60 years

JERUSALEM | Sixty years after jumping off a bridge to his death, the last descendant of Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, was buried Wednesday in a Jerusalem cemetery bearing his grandfather's name.

Herzl's son also committed suicide. He had a daughter who was mentally ill and another who was killed in the Holocaust.

In the past year, three of the founder's four descendants have been buried in Israel. That was no easy task because of rabbinical injunctions against Jewish burials for those who have killed themselves or converted to other religions.

Stephen Theodore Norman's remains were exhumed Monday in Washington, D.C., where he was buried in the cemetery of the Adas Israel congregation after his death in 1946.

On Wednesday he was reburied near his grandfather on a warm, cloudless afternoon, with hundreds of dignitaries and distant Herzl relatives in attendance.

Norman was the lone family member committed to Herzl's Zionist cause. **ARON HELLER (AP)**

In Brief

LONDON, ENGLAND Man Who Reappeared After 5 Years Is Arrested

British police arrested a man on fraud charges Wednesday, five years after he vanished in an apparent canoeing accident in the North Sea — only to reappear last weekend, claiming he had amnesia. The Daily Mirror tabloid claimed that the man, 57-year-old John Darwin, and his wife, Anne, had been seen together in Panama since his disappearance and published what it said was a photo of them there. **(AP)**



Darwin

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO Mexican Singers' Weekend Murders Spark Fear

A wave of organized crime violence terrorizing many parts of Mexico is driving fear into the heart of the entertainment business with the murders of several popular musicians, suggesting no one is immune to the rampant brutality. Most disquieting were the weekend slayings of two singers who had crooned only about love and loss: Sergio Gomez, lead performer for the top-selling group K-Paz de la Sierra, and Zayda Pena of the group Zayda and the Guilty Ones. **(AP)**

SOMALIA | INTERNATIONAL AID RESUMES



HEAVY LOADS: Men unload sacks of sorghum provided by the World Food Programme on Marka Beach on Wednesday. Aid operations in southeastern Somalia resumed Wednesday after the government lifted a freeze imposed a day earlier, the World Food Programme said. The food is destined for people displaced by fighting in Mogadishu.

Rice Urges African Security, Peace

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA | Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged some of Africa's most unstable states Wednesday to restore security and shore up faltering peace deals, but a Sudanese faction's rebuff and the Somali president's illness stole momentum from her

attempts at diplomacy.

In a hectic series of meetings in the Ethiopian capital, Rice tried to calm the volatile Great Lakes region, ease rising tensions between Ethiopia and Eritrea and violence in Somalia, cool the conflict in Sudan's Darfur province,

and salvage a shaky north-south Sudan peace deal.

Rice had said she wanted to tackle elements of the Darfur conflict and bolster the 2005 peace deal that ended a separate, long-running north-south civil war. But the government of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir skipped the meeting. **ANITA POWELL (AP)**

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- Psychiatric services and care
- Vision and dental care
- Sunscreen

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DISGRUNTLED BEAUTY QUEEN: A Tibetan woman said Wednesday that she quit Malaysia's "Miss Tourism" beauty pageant after organizers said she could participate only if she added "China" to her "Miss Tibet" title. Tsering Chungtak, 22, decided to quit rather than wear a sash labeled "Miss Tibet-China."

World

'Kite Runner' Actors Relocate For Film Opening

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | Four boy actors in the movie "The Kite Runner" have left Afghanistan out of concern they could be ostracized or subjected to violence because of a rape scene in the movie, a film executive said.

"The Kite Runner," which had its world premiere on Tuesday in Hollywood, is based on the 2003 best-selling novel by Afghan-American writer Khaled Hosseini. In the story, the main character witnesses the rape of his friend but does nothing to stop it.

Although the film is not scheduled for release in Afghanistan, there are concerns that pirated DVDs could reach Kabul and some residents might react violently to the rape scene. (AP)

Ahmadinejad Declares a 'Victory'

Iranian president says U.S. nuclear review proves his own success

TEHRAN, IRAN | President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Wednesday called the dramatic U.S. turnaround in a new intelligence review a "declaration of victory" for Iran's nuclear program, suggesting it shows the success of his hard-line stance rejecting compromise.

But his more moderate opponents at home are hoping the assessment's conclusion that Tehran shelved its effort to develop atomic weapons will boost a diplomatic resolution of the nuclear standoff with the West.

The head of the U.N. atomic watchdog agency said Wednesday that Iran had been "somewhat vin-



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, center, greets a crowd Wednesday in western Iran, where he spoke about the U.S.' review of Iran's nuclear program.

dictated" by the U.S. review.

"I see this report as a window of opportunity," Mohamed El Baradei of the International Atomic Energy Agency said. "[I]t gives diplomacy a new chance."

Ahmadinejad touted the assessment as a vindication for his refusal to cave in to the West's demands. He told a crowd of thousands in the western province of Ilam that the U.S. report was a "declaration of victory for the Iranian nation against the world powers over the nuclear issue."

"Thanks to your resistance, a fatal shot was fired at the dreams of ill-wishers, and the truthfulness of the Iranian nation was once again proved by the ill-wishers themselves," Ahmadinejad said, drawing celebratory whistles from the crowd. ALI AKBAR DAREINI (AP)

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World

127

The number of journalists who are imprisoned worldwide, according to an annual survey released Wednesday by the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Thailand's King Turns 80

Tens of thousands pack streets to honor world's longest-reigning royal

BANGKOK, THAILAND | Thais celebrated their revered king's 80th birthday Wednesday, honoring the world's longest-reigning monarch with festivities and prayers amid concerns about his declining health and potentially divisive elections.

Tens of thousands of people, many wearing yellow — the color that symbolizes devotion to the monarch — packed the streets around the Grand Palace where King Bhumibol Adulyadej made a rare public appearance from the balcony of his ceremonial Throne Hall. It was only the sixth such appearance in his 61-year reign.

Bhumibol's birthday has increas-



Thai civil and military officers stand in front of a portrait of King Bhumibol Adulyadej during a celebration for the king's birthday in Bangkok on Wednesday.

ingly become a day of nationwide tribute to the U.S.-born king, who is regarded as the key to Thailand's stability.

The celebration was clouded by nationwide anxiety over Bhumibol's health and uncertainty over Dec. 23 elections. AMBIKA AHUJA (AP)

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Money

Facebook CEO Apologizes

Popular site will let users turn off tool that tracks Web activities

SAN FRANCISCO | Saying it went too far in its pursuit of profit, the popular Internet hangout Facebook Inc. is allowing its 55 million users to permanently turn off a new marketing tool that tracks their activities at other Web sites.

The privacy control, announced in a Wednesday apology by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, will likely limit the reach of an application called "Beacon." The tool is part of a month-old program that the Palo Alto-based startup had hailed as an advertising breakthrough.

Facebook users attacked Beacon as a flagrant violation of privacy. The tool enables Facebook to track its users' purchases and actions at dozens of Web sites and then broadcast the data on the pages of their listed friends with-



Facebook CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg apologized on Wednesday for launching a marketing tool that kept track of users' purchases on other Web sites.

in its social network.

"We've made a lot of mistakes building this feature, but we've made even more with how we've handled them," Zuckerberg wrote on Facebook's blog. "We simply did a bad job with this release, and I

apologize for it."

Critics remain worried that Facebook and other sites will deploy increasingly sophisticated technology to shadow Web surfers' activities in an attempt to tailor advertising more and more specifically. (AP)

Fannie Mae Warns of Heavy Losses

WASHINGTON | Fannie Mae warned investors Wednesday that its losses would mount next year from bad home loans, even as the mortgage finance company took steps to stabilize its finances.

Fannie Mae also disclosed in a regulatory filing that its mortgage investments declined by \$9 billion in November, compared with the prior month, as it sold some off to raise capital.

In 2008, Fannie expects to lose money on eight to 10 out of every 1,000 mortgages held on its \$2.4 trillion book, the company said Wednesday. That would be a steep increase from 2007, when it expects four to six out of every 1,000 mortgages to be money-losers. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
ColtctvBrd	18.57	+3.48	+23.1
Blyth	22.45	+4.10	+22.3
AbitiBow n	25.35	+4.58	+22.1
NovaStr rs	2.48	+.40	+19.2
Angelic	19.24	+2.94	+18.0

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
FstMarb s	19.93	-5.05	-20.2
MBIA	27.42	-5.21	-16.0
Chicos	10.06	-1.44	-12.5
BlckbstrB	2.61	-.32	-10.9
RH Donl	36.35	-3.78	-9.4

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
ChinaNRes	31.50	+14.77	+88.3
ChinaPrec n	7.10	+1.95	+37.9
STEN	2.75	+.75	+37.5
ChinaBAK	4.92	+1.16	+30.9
lomai	1.26	+.02	+1.6

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Ftrmdia hrs	2.54	-.50	-16.4
TOP Tank	3.21	-.60	-15.7
CleanDsl n	22.00	-4.00	-15.4
Vyvolnc	3.74	-.66	-15.0
TechRsh	3.14	-.46	-12.8

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	7.50	7.50
Fed Funds close	4.38	4.44
3-month disc	2.99	2.97
2-year	2.86	3.17
10-year	3.91	4.02
30-year	4.38	4.40

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.4937	.4861	.5065
Canadian Dollar	1.0169	1.0149	1.1411
European Euro	.6840	.6773	.7505
Japanese Yen	110.55	109.90	114.81
Mexican Peso	10.8613	10.8790	10.8581
Taiwanese Dollar	32.42	32.42	32.31

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Bank Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
BcoSantand	21.65	+.06	+16.0
BkofAm	45.23	+1.16	-15.3
BkMont g	59.42	+.38	+.4
BkNova g	51.51	-.52	+15.0
CIBC g	85.83	+2.03	+1.8
Citigrp	33.69	+1.14	-39.5
DeutschBk	130.47	+1.38	-2.1
JPMorgCh	44.90	+.75	-6.4
MitsuUFJ	10.52	+.40	-15.5
RoyalBk g	52.34	-.02	+9.8
TorDBk g	72.56	-.29	+23.0
UBS AG	49.36	+.66	-18.2
US Bancrp	32.64	+.17	-9.8
Wachovia	43.00	+1.18	-24.5
WellsFargo	32.40	+.64	-8.9

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**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
NOTICE OF COMMUNITY HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY'S RATE APPLICATION,
FORMAL CASE NO. 1054, IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT
COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE EXISTING RATES AND CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICE**

This Notice informs the public that the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia ("Commission") seeks input on the application submitted by the Washington Gas Light Company (WGL) requesting authority to increase existing firm rates and charges for gas service in the District of Columbia. The Commission published a Public Notice on January 19, 2007, regarding this application in the *D.C. Register* to allow interested persons to intervene in Formal Case No. 1054, the formal case established to handle WGL's application. The Public Notice can be accessed online at www.dcpsc.org or viewed at any public library. A hard copy of the Public Notice can be obtained by calling (202) 626-5150.

The Commission will convene three (3) community hearings at the following locations on the specified dates:

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Ward Memorial A.M.E. Church
(Ward 7)
241 42nd Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20019
10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 8, 2007

Westminster Presbyterian
Church (Ward 6)
400 I Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024
11:00 a.m.

Monday, December 10, 2007

D.C. Public Service Commission
(Ward 2)
1333 H Street, N.W., Hearing
Rm. 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
6:00 p.m.

Those who wish to testify at the community hearings should contact the Commission Secretary by the close of three (3) business days prior to the date of the hearing by calling (202) 626-5150. Representatives of organizations and individuals shall be permitted a maximum of five (5) minutes for oral presentations. If an organization or an individual is unable to offer comments at the community hearings, written statements may be submitted to the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, 1333 H Street, NW, Suite 200, West Tower, Washington, D.C. 20005 until August 31, 2007.

Any person who is deaf or hearing-impaired, and cannot readily understand or communicate in spoken English, and persons with disabilities who need special accommodations in order to participate in the hearing, must contact the Commission Secretary by close of seven (7) business days prior to the date of the hearing. Persons who wish to testify in Spanish, Chinese, Amharic, or Korean must also contact the Commission Secretary by close of three (3) business days before the day of the hearing. **The number to call to request special accommodations and interpretation services is (202) 626-5150.**

Brain Imaging in Depression

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is conducting studies using Positron Emission Tomography (PET) & Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to better understand how the brain regulates emotion and how depression affects motivation. Studies are conducted at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD.

Participants Should Be:

- Currently depressed
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- 18 to 55 years old
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Transportation reimbursement provided.
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Sandra Robinson, President
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BEET STREET: The D.C. Department of Transportation will be employing a new, more agriculturally based method to help combat icy conditions on city streets. According to WTOP, beet juice is this year's new remedy for keeping highways and streets clear after snowfall.

Local

Former Metro Bus Driver Sentenced

Man who ran over 2 pedestrians in D.C. gets 1 year in prison

A former Metro bus driver was sentenced to a year in prison Wednesday for running over and killing two female pedestrians in downtown Washington this year.

In sentencing Victor Z. Kolako, D.C. Superior Court Judge Neal E. Kravitz called the accident a "very sad and tragic case" but said he

wanted it to serve as a message to other drivers, especially bus and truck drivers.

"These drivers need to understand that the rules of the road apply to them. They can't be bullies on the road simply because of their size," Kravitz said.

On Feb. 14, Kolako, 53, was driving a Metrobus during the evening rush hour when he came to Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW. Prosecutors said Kolako failed to look when he made

an abrupt left turn onto Pennsylvania in an effort to beat oncoming traffic. He struck Martha Stringer Schoenborn, 59, and her best friend and co-worker, Sally Dean McGhee, 54.

The women, both from Alexandria, were in the crosswalk and had the "walk" sign as they crossed Pennsylvania Avenue around 6:40 p.m. after leaving work at the Federal Trade Commission.

In emotional statements, family members of both women spoke

at the sentencing. Several said they hoped Kolako would never be allowed to drive again.

Gregory Schoenborn held up poster-size wedding pictures of his wife. He asked Kravitz to send a message in his sentencing that "we are responsible for our acts and that all drivers should be more careful or face a similar punishment." Later, Schoenborn called Kolako's sentence fair.

KEITH L. ALEXANDER (THE WASHINGTON POST)

6K in Va. May Have HIV/AIDS

Dept. of Health says residents might not know they're infected

RICHMOND, VA. | Thousands of your neighbors may have HIV and not know it. That's the finding of a new report from the Virginia Department of Health. More than 6,000 Virginians may not realize they're infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

Kathy Hafford, the acting-director of Virginia's Disease Prevention, says she wants to find these people and test them. "We're trying to increase HIV testing in Virginia and make it more available so the people we have not reached can have the opportunity to be tested."

The Department last week released its 2008 Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan with a report detailing the distribution of HIV and AIDS in Virginia. There are nearly 18,600 additional people in Virginia living with HIV.

The diagnosed cases of HIV or AIDS in the state has decreased from nearly 1,600 to just under 1,200 between 1997 and 2006. But the number of people living with HIV in Virginia has steadily increased, largely because treatment advances are helping people live longer. (AP)

In Brief

RICHMOND, VA.

Report: Va. Bad Driver Fees Not an Effective Deterrent

A new report from the legislature's watchdog agency says there's no evidence Virginia's new fees on bad drivers deter abusive driving. The new law that imposes steep civil penalties for egregious behind-the-wheel behavior also is applied inconsistently, according to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission. The agency's report, delivered Wednesday, also says there's ambiguity about which offenses warrant the fees. State police traffic arrest figures showed that reckless driving citations were down slightly since the law took effect, but arrests for drunken driving and speeding increased. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Capitol Police Officer Indicted for Bathroom Fires

A Capitol Police officer was indicted today by a federal grand jury for setting a fire in a Senate women's bathroom in November, authorities said. Karen E. Emory, 36, is charged with a misdemeanor count of willfully injuring or damaging federal property. She is accused of setting fire to toilet paper in the Dirksen Senate Office building on Nov. 2. Emory, who lives in Waldorf, was suspended last month as Capitol Police investigated almost a dozen several small fires set in Senate office buildings. ALLISON KLEIN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

TAKOMA PARK, MD. | SEASON'S FIRST SNOWFALL



CHILD'S PLAY: Alexander Dennis, 7, left, and Jordan Deare, 7, both of Silver Spring, sled down a hill after school on Montgomery County School's Lee Jordan Athletic Field on Piney Branch Road in Takoma Park on Wednesday.

Va. Police Capture Escaped Convict

RICHMOND, VA. | Authorities on Wednesday captured a man who escaped from a state prison nearly three weeks ago in an abandoned house in Richmond.

Alonzo Logan was rushed to VCU Medical Center after he appeared to be suffering from hypothermia, police said.

Richmond police chief Rodney Monroe said Logan clearly had some help avoiding capture since his Nov. 16 escape from Dillwyn Correctional Center.

Logan is serving a 45-year



Authorities found Alonzo Logan in an abandoned house in Richmond, Va.

sentence on multiple burglary and larceny charges. (AP)

The Lotteries

Wednesday, Dec. 5

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	0-4-2
Evening Lucky Numbers (Tues.)	3-8-7
Mid-day DC 4	2-7-2-6
Evening DC 4 (Tues.)	5-1-2-1
Rolling Cash Five (Tues.)	11-12-18-22-28
Daily 6 (Tues.)	7-12-16-23-35-39 Bonus: 18

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Mega Millions (Tues.)	16-27-30-45-53
Mega Ball	43

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	6-2-5
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	5-5-7
Mid-day Pick 4	2-9-7-0
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	5-0-8-8
Match 5 (Tues.)	8-10-16-24-39 Bonus: 34

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Wed.)	7-0-9
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	9-0-6
Mid-day Pick 4 (Wed.)	5-8-0-8
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	5-3-5-5
Mid-day Cash 5 (Wed.)	1-14-15-19-34
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WETA Recognizes the 2007 Heroes

Julie Childers shares a love of cycling and nature with Washington area youth through her work at Trips for Kids Metro DC (TFK).

Amtchat Edwards inspires and energizes the next generation of conservation leaders through programs at the Student Conservation Association.

Maimouna Iro is a committed and motivated student leader involved in environmental issues in the Washington, D.C., area.

Martina V. Johnson is a founding member of the board of directors for Soaring Towards Educational Enrichment via Equine Discovery Inc. STEED educates youth on environmental issues through educational and equestrian programs.

Mike Nardolilli, a litigator with nearly 20 years of experience representing Fortune 500 corporations, uses his skills to help preserve land at the Arlington Outdoor Education Association.

Michael Powell of Patuxent Elementary School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, challenges students and their parents to be good environmental stewards through hands-on learning experiences.

Anita Scott is a dedicated leader at the Arlington Outdoor Education Association in Virginia who provides environmental education programs to more than 9,000 children in Arlington County Public Schools.

Robert Speaker is a generous and committed volunteer at the Washington Youth Garden in Washington, D.C., whose enthusiasm inspires children and adults alike to enjoy and respect butterflies and other pollinators.

Ron "Doc" Wexler, founder of the Orphaned Wildlife Rescue Center, has rescued more than 10,000 animals throughout the past 10 years and is committed to rehabilitating wildlife in Southern Maryland.



Robert Speaker teaches kids about butterflies at a youth garden. Photo: Rebecca Tulkoff

WETA
TV 26

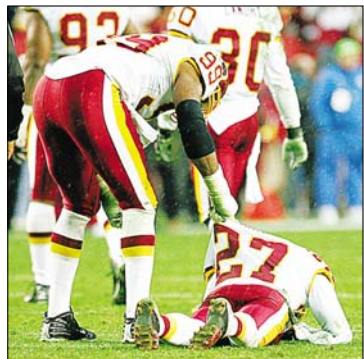
WETA wants to know who is a hero in your neighborhood. Please visit weta.org/heroes to submit your nomination for a Hometown Hero. Your nomination may be posted on the **WETA Hometown Heroes** Web site.

Funding for WETA *Hometown Heroes* is provided by Park Foundation, Inc.; The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; and the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation.



WELL, HE DID BETTER THAN NOTRE DAME: Tyrone Willingham will return next year despite a 4-9 record that made him the first Washington football coach with three consecutive losing seasons. Willingham has two years remaining on the five-year deal that pays him \$1.4 million per year.

Sports



CB Fred Smoot, right, reacts to the Redskins' loss to the Bills last Sunday.

Parity Plagues The NFC

Amazingly, Redskins and Bears both think the playoffs are possible

REDSKINS | A season removed from the Super Bowl, the Bears are mastering the art of inconsistency.

Their results so far? They opened this way: loss, win, loss. Then, after a second consecutive loss in Week 4, the Bears have put together this string: win, loss, win, loss, win, loss, win, loss.

The Redskins, meanwhile, have been far more consistent of late: loss, loss, loss, loss.

It's a testament to the parity — or mediocrity — of the NFC that both of these struggling teams consider themselves part of the playoff race going into their head-to-head meeting Thursday night.

Amazingly, even at 5-7, Chicago and Washington are only one game behind the three teams tied for the conference's final playoff berth — Arizona, Detroit and Minnesota.

So, that means there's still a chance of playing into January, no matter how slight. And that, in turn, means players on both teams are talking about Thursday's contest as "an elimination game."

"It's all or nothing," Redskins fullback Mike Sellers said. "I need vacation money; the playoffs are the extra money you depend on. And I'm trying to get that ring just like everybody else." HOWARD FENDRICH (AP)



Clinton Portis walks off the field after Sunday's loss. The Redskins went to Sean Taylor's funeral Monday and will play Thursday.

No Time to Rest

Redskins had just 2 days to prep for Bears after Taylor's funeral

REDSKINS | Redskins players walked past Sean Taylor's glass-encased locker. No one stopped to stare at it. No one teared up.

Still, things are far from normal.

"You just put it behind you," said tailback Clinton Portis, standing in front of his locker, which is next to Taylor's. "[But] you can't forget about it. It's going to always be around."



Taylor's memory was in the front of Washington players' minds when they returned to work Tuesday, just hours after attending a memorial in Florida for the slain star safety.

"It's back to football, but that's still in your mind," said Rock Cartwright, who spent his 28th birthday at Taylor's memorial service. "Sean's a big part of this

MR. UNTOUCHABLE

Devin Hester has fumbled six times and has just the 11th-best average of regular NFC kickoff returners. But it's the times he hasn't been hit that have made him famous.

Hester has five returns for touchdowns this season — three on punts and two on kickoffs — and 11 in his two-year career. The big question facing the Redskins on Thursday will be whether they kick to the Bears' biggest weapon. After all, he hasn't reached the end zone on 63 of his 68 runbacks.

"I don't think anybody has the game plan yet [to deal with Hester]," said Gibbs, who stopped short of volunteering the Redskins' exact Hester strategy.

Bears coach Lovie Smith said he'd kick to Hester if he were on the other sideline, even after giving his star returner credit for changing the way teams approach special teams.

"I think teams have seen guys like Devin [and] some of the games Devin has had a big part to do in the win," Smith said. "I think he has the God-given ability to know when to make a cut."

team, and we're definitely going to miss him."

With just three days to prepare for their game against Chicago (5-7) — the first of which was spent in Florida remembering their friend — the Redskins spent the last two days conserving energy and cram-

“You wish it could

[push the game back], but that's not the case. ... We're going to ... play as hard as we can and try to get a break.”

ROCK CARTWRIGHT, REDSKINS RB

ming for Thursday night's contest at FedEx Field.

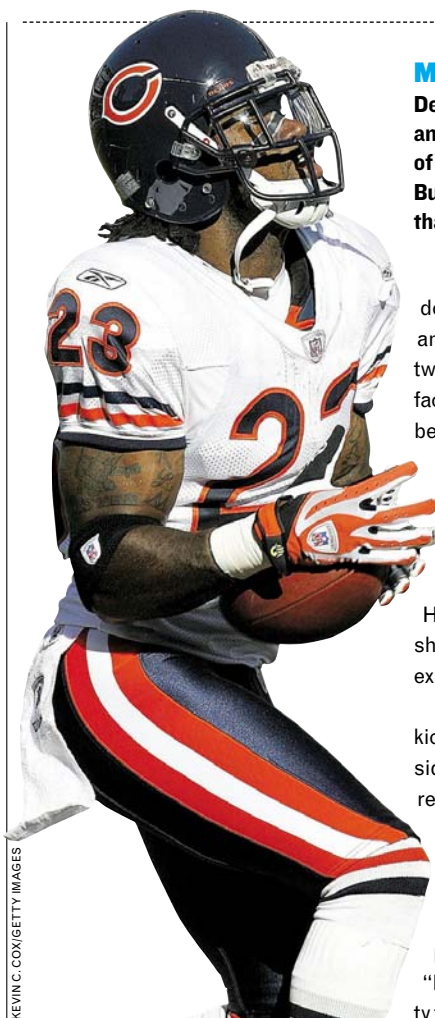
"It is extremely hard for the coaches [to prepare for a Thursday game]," head coach Joe Gibbs said. "Players and coaches are used to a steady schedule and getting certain things done."

Because of the short week, Cartwright said, the players were given DVDs of Bears games to study on their own time. They had an extended walkthrough when they returned to the field on Tuesday, followed by more film study. The team planned to fit versions of its regular Friday and Saturday schedules into Wednesday — including in-game scenarios and special teams reviews.

"You wish it could [push the game back to Sunday], but that's not the case right now," Cartwright said. "Coach [Gibbs] is definitely taking care of us, trying to let us rest up. We're going to go out there and play as hard as we can Thursday and try to get a break after that."

Taylor's death took the emphasis off the floundering Redskins' quest to make the playoffs. Now at 5-7, another loss would all but eliminate them from the postseason for a second year in a row.

"We understand that, as players, we have no control over [moving the game back]," quarterback Jason Campbell said. "We've got to make sure we get focused real quick and are ready to go on Thursday. The next four weeks for us [are] all playoff games." ERIC BRANDNER



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A BIG JUMP: A man's ability to leap over cars landed him an opportunity to design a shoe for Nike Inc. Chris Bryant, 23, showed off his hops on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" a few months ago and drew the attention of Nike. The result is a new orange and black shoe dubbed the "Car Jumper."



Sports

Hawaii's Adopted Son Heads to N.Y.

Prolific QB Brennan is one of 4 finalists for a wide-open Heisman

HEISMAN PROFILE | Moments after rallying Hawaii from 14 points down in the final four minutes to beat San Jose State in overtime, Colt Brennan stood before his mud-covered teammates in the middle of Spartans Stadium and delivered a passionate message.

"We kept saying 'believe,'" Brennan hollered. "Believe the rest of the year and we will go undefeated. This is what it's all about. Every one of you guys, I love you."

Brennan's bold prediction, captured by television cameras, was made in mid-October. Two months later, having led the Warriors to a perfect regular season, Brennan is



Colt Brennan's numbers are down from last season's, but his team is undefeated.

a Heisman Trophy finalist.

"I was just saying what I felt," he said in an interview with the AP this week. "It just came out, and, sure enough, we believed the rest of the season, and here we are."

Brennan was chosen as a finalist Wednesday, along with Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, Arkansas running back Darren McFadden and Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel.

No. 10 Hawaii (12-0) had the finest season in school history. The Warriors finished the regular season as the nation's only unbeaten team, won their first outright Western Athletic Conference championship and earned a Sugar Bowl bid to face No. 4 Georgia.

Warriors coach June Jones calls Brennan the "best passer in college history."

There's no question Brennan is one the most prolific quarterbacks ever. He owns or shares 29 NCAA records, including the career touchdown mark of 131.

This season, Brennan has thrown for 4,174 yards and 38 touchdowns with 14 interceptions. He also leads the team with eight rushing TDs.

His numbers are down considerably from last season, when Brennan set an NCAA record with 58 touchdown passes, and led the nation in passing yards (5,549), passing efficiency (186) and completion percentage (72.6). All that and he managed to finish only sixth in the Heisman voting.

More important than the stats are the victories.

"I'll throw 20 touchdowns to go 12-0," Brennan said. "That's what matters." JAYMES SONG (AP)

Cavs Defensive End Is the Best In the Nation

CAVS FOOTBALL | Chris Long of Virginia won the Ted Hendricks award Wednesday as the nation's best defensive end.

"My voters were very definitive in their decision this year, and I don't think they could have made a better choice," said Hendricks, a former Miami All-American.

Long received more than 60 percent of the votes, the most in the award's six-year history. The award is based on leadership, contributions to the school and the community and on-field performance.

Long was the 2007 Atlantic Coast Conference defensive player of the year and the only unanimous selection to the All-ACC team. He led the ACC and was third nationally with 14 sacks. (AP)

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The amount, in millions of dollars, the Cavaliers will pay Anderson Varejao over the next three years. Cleveland matched Charlotte's offer for the restricted free agent, ending a dispute.

Sports

Tigers Finalize Deal for 2 All-Stars

Florida sends Willis and Cabrera to Detroit for 6-prospect package

BASEBALL | It's a done deal.

The Tigers and Marlins completed their blockbuster trade Wednesday, an eight-player swap that sent All-Stars Miguel Cabrera and Dontrelle Willis from Florida to Detroit.

The Marlins received a package of six players, including two highly rated prospects: left-hander Andrew Miller and outfielder Cameron Maybin. The teams reached a preliminary agreement Tuesday, with the deal subject



Cabrera

Willis

to both sides' being satisfied after exchanging medical records.

"Wow. Those moves put us over the top," Detroit closer Todd Jones wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

The Tigers also sent catcher Mike Rabelo and right-handers Burke Badenhop, Eulogio De La

Cruz and Dallas Trahern to Florida in a huge deal that developed quickly and took the spotlight away from the Johan Santana sweepstakes at baseball's winter meetings.

"We made this trade to win now. It's obvious," Tigers president Dave Dombrowski said.

Detroit had not been considered a contender for Cabrera or Willis. Both can become free agents after the 2009 season, and the Tigers hope to keep them long term.

"There were a lot of complaints about our asking price," Florida general manager Larry Beinfest said. "We're here today because we thought we got value for them." (AP)

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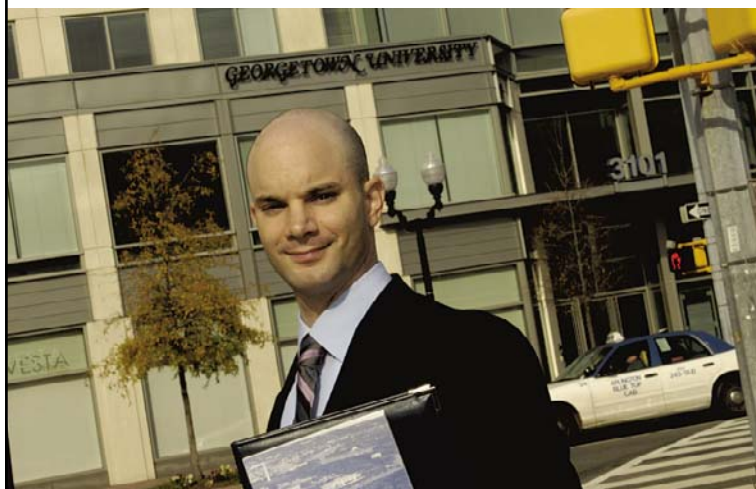
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Sports



Coach Ralph Friedgen, right, lost starting QB Jordan Steffy, left, early in the year.

Emerald Bowl Trip Caps Trying Year

Friedgen says he is happy with his team's effort, not its record

TERPS FOOTBALL | Ralph Friedgen was asked one of the most common press conference questions since the advent of the tape recorder: "Coach, is this game a must-win?"

The Maryland coach paused, then spouted off a couple of sentences about how nice it would be for his 6-6 team to finish with a winning record. Then he turned honest.

"I don't think the national championship is going to be determined by this game," he said Tuesday.

For the Terrapins, the bowl game itself is the reward: a trip to San Francisco to play Oregon State (8-4) in the Emerald Bowl on Dec. 28.

"I'm not happy with 6-6. I don't think our players are, either," Friedgen said. "I'm happy that we got to go to a bowl game. I'm happy that they played very well this year. I'm happy with the type of kids we had this year, how they hung in there."

This season arguably was as mentally and emotionally draining as any in Friedgen's seven years as head coach. Players went out with injuries weekly. Two starting linemen were lost with broken legs in back-to-back games. The starting quarterback missed several games with a concussion and never got his job back. Receivers got hurt in practice.

And then there were the other disappointments. Leads, big leads, were blown in the second half. Players aren't likely to forget the 21-point second-half lead they wasted at Wake Forest. Or the final-minute loss to Virginia on national TV.

But they bounced back and defeated then-No. 8 Boston College, Maryland's second win against a top-10 team this season. And the Terrapins pounded N.C. State in the season finale to seal a bowl bid.

"Five out of the last seven years, we've been to a bowl game," he said. "Before that time, we went to one bowl in [15] years. I think that's pretty significant." **DEREK TURNER**

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

REDSKINS (8 P.M. ON CH. 20) Everywhere else in the country, most people have to go to bars to watch the NFL Network. Here, everyone can watch the Redskins-Bears game at home, thanks to local TV.

COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M. ON ESPN2 AND 9:30 P.M. ON ESPN) South Carolina

plays Providence, but the game is in Philadelphia. Then, LSU is at Villanova.

NBA (8:15 P.M. AND 10:30 P.M.) Denver is at Dallas, and Miami is at Portland. And in between those two games, enjoy Sir Charles and the TNT crew.



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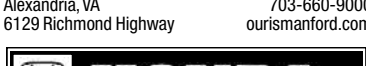


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MAN OF ONE HAT: Garth Brooks brought his famous cowboy hat to the Smithsonian Institution on Tuesday. Brooks' trademark black Stetson Tyler cowboy hat and a guitar he smashed onstage will soon join the "Treasures of American History" exhibit.

Entertainment

Endangered Species

Once a print news staple, film critics are a slowly dying breed

EXPERTS | When Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert sat across from each other in a semi-darkened theater and discussed movies, it was more than a handy way to figure out how to spend your movie bucks.

It was an education.

Their conversations were often more entertaining than the movies. Anyone who cared to listen learned a new language.

Looking at old episodes of "At the Movies" or "Siskel & Ebert" these days is to examine an artifact from a bygone era.

The era of the newspaper film critic, the era of newspaper criticism, seems to be coming to a rapid and unceremonious end.

As recently as a decade ago, no

Looking at old episodes of 'Siskel & Ebert' is to examine an artifact from a bygone era.

self-respecting mid-size daily newspaper would have dreamed of publishing without a film critic.

These days, only major city papers have them and those that remain (other than Ebert) have seen their influence wane.

"It's just part of the disappearance of news from the daily newspaper," says Jeanine Basinger, head of the film studies program at Wesleyan University in Connecticut and one of the nation's most respected film historians. "As newspapers are



Gene Siskel, left, and Roger Ebert were the godfathers of professional film criticism.

cutting back, there is a feeling that readers will get their reviews from somewhere else. Those of us who were used to reading newspapers are disappearing."

The film critic is not the only one in danger of going the way of

the VCR.

Daily newspapers are trimming full-time arts critics faster than they can grow back.

People who love the art forms that are being pushed to the margins have taken their disappear-

ance as yet another sign of the apocalypse.

"These actions ... compellingly demonstrate the decreasing value that those in position to influence public opinion place on the arts to a society," wrote Henry Fogel in his blog on ArtsJournal.com. "If that does not alarm you, I cannot imagine what will!"

Fogel, the president and CEO of the American Symphony Orchestra League, is not alone.

Alex Ross, critic for the New Yorker, contends that critics play "a crucial role in the cultural ecosystem of a city."

The stubborn truth is that newspapers can get away with not having, for example, a full-time classic music reviewer because there aren't that many performances. Papers have discovered they can fill the gap with a part-time critic.

The same can't be said for movies, which come every week and are, by far, America's entertainment outing of choice, even topping sports in attendance.

And yet, the film critic is disappearing as quickly as the others.

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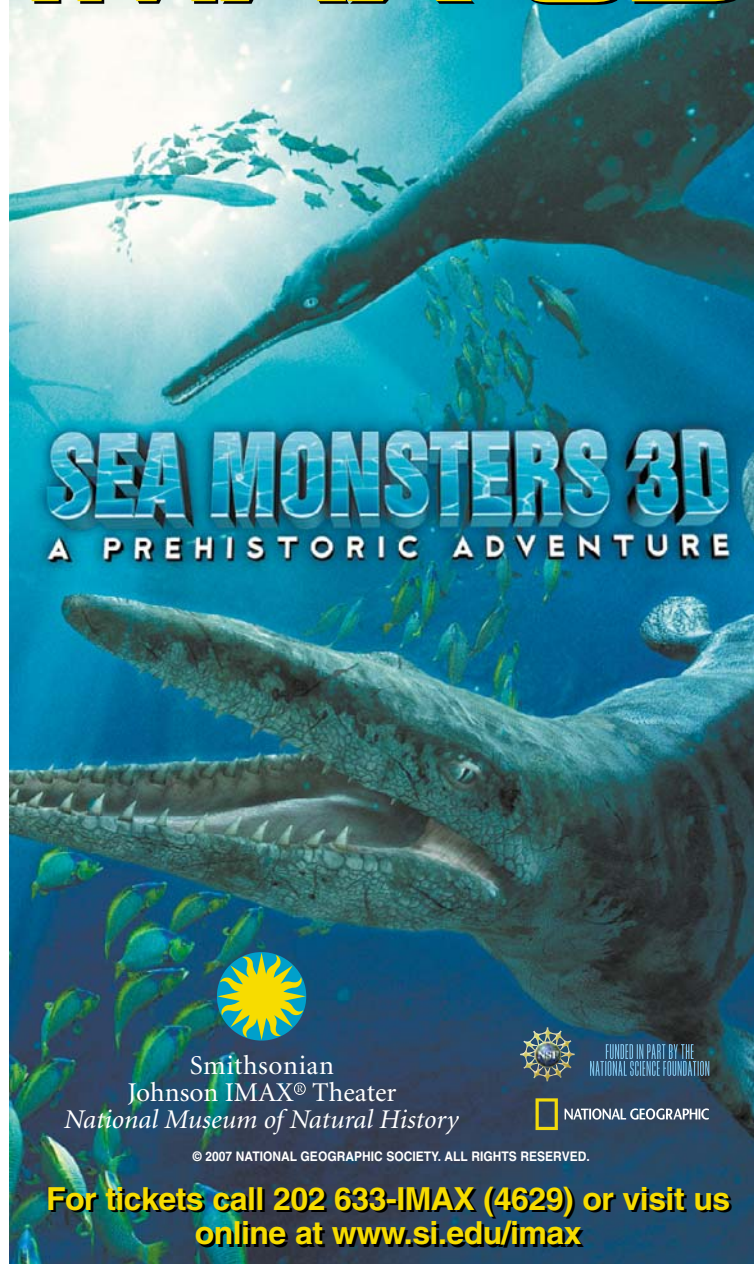
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Entertainment

Ever the Dude

Jeff Bridges is back to his absurd, lazy ways in 'Amateurs'

PORNO | Nobody can play a laid-back alpha male like Jeff Bridges can.

The acclaimed actor originated the iconic character of the Dude in "The Big Lebowski," a slacker with just enough smarts and charisma to get by — a lazy man's man.

Bridges again conjures up his inner Dude in "The Amateurs," a new comedy from first-time director Michael Traeger, who also wrote the script. In it, he plays Andy, a down-and-out divorcee who concocts a get-rich-quick scheme with his five motley friends. Their business plan? Make a low-budget amateur porn film, then watch the money roll in.

The only problem with these would-be movie moguls is none of them has a clue about filmmaking, let alone shooting a skin flick. Tim Blake Nelson, Ted Danson, William Fichtner, Patrick Fugit and Joe Pantoliano play Bridges' clueless cohorts.

For Bridges, "The Amateurs" was all about hanging out, having a good time and making a movie with people he likes. But first he had to over-



ARTISTE: Jeff Bridges, left, plots the making of his skin flick in "The Amateurs."

come some initial doubts.

"With most movies I get involved with, I resist it as long as possible," he says in his easygoing way. "I really try to figure out why I shouldn't do it. This one had plenty of reasons not to do it."

The subject matter made him cautious. So did the prospect of working with a first-time director. But Bridges ultimately found the offbeat comedy irresistible.

Once Bridges was on board, he did more than play the starring role. He offered his mother's beach house for rehearsals and served as the party host in getting the cast acquainted.

"He had us over to his house two or three days for sleepovers to get a buddy thing going," recalls Danson, who plays Andy's kooky buddy, Moose.

Though they've been friends for decades, Bridges and Danson had not previously worked together.

"Jeff is one of my favorite people on the planet," gushes Danson, who worked with Bridges' late father, Lloyd, in 1989's "Cousins."

"He rehearses, he gets everyone together, and he cares about the project," Danson continues. "He's like this young new actor who can't wait to get in front of the camera."

ANGELA DAWSON (ENTERTAINMENT NEWS WIRE)

Treasure Aplenty On DVD

Johnny Depp chats with Keith Richards on 'At World's End'

DVD | The nearly three-hour "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" (Disney, \$35) sailed onto DVD Tuesday with a lavish two-disc set that includes among



Chow Yun-Fat and Johnny Depp as Captain Jack in "At World's End."

its extras a riotous interview between the film's star, Johnny Depp, and Rolling Stones guitar

legend Keith Richards, who has a cameo in the adventure as Capt. Jack Sparrow's father.

Depp based his character on Richards, so to watch the two together is like watching a dop-pelganger. And after listening to Richards talk — and make little sense — it definitely seems that he's still enjoying his hard-living, bad-boy rock lifestyle.

Other extras in the "At World's End" package include some very funny bloopers, extensive featurettes on every aspect of the production, two boring deleted scenes with commentary from director Gore Verbinski and a profile of cast member Chow Yun-Fat.

SUSAN KING (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

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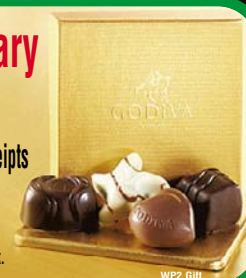
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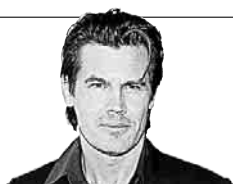
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WP2 GHI



INDIE A-LISTERS: Josh Brolin, pictured, and Emile Hirsch will join Sean Penn in a movie about Harvey Milk from director Gus Van Sant. Milk was the country's first openly gay elected official and was assassinated in 1978 by a political rival.

Entertainment

Blake's Lively Story

A 'Gossip Girl' star dishes on acting and her 'Guitar Hero' skills

PRIVILEGE | Wide-eyed teens excitedly watch as "Gossip Girl" star Blake Lively films a scene with co-star Penn Badgley.

Take after take in New York's Stuyvesant Park — a perfect setting with its stately gates and statues — the youthful onlookers linger on this cold autumn day, providing some evidence that the low-rated CW series holds interest for its target demo: BlackBerry-holding, DVR-using Gen-Yers.

Lively, who got her big break as a soccer-loving teen in 2005's "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants," plays Serena van der Woodsen on the glossy soap, based on the popular young-adult novels about rich Manhattan private school kids whose scandals and trysts are dishy fodder for an anonymous blogger.

Are you anything like Serena?

No, not at all. Serena was brought up very differently than I was brought up. Serena was given everything her



HAPPY GO LIVELY: Playing Serena van der Woodsen on the CW's "Gossip Girl" has assured Blake Lively that acting is her calling.

whole life. ... I grew up in a small little town in California — Burbank. ... At the heart of it all, Serena really wants to be a good person — despite all odds, despite all the chaos that's going on around her and all the other people in her

life. So, I think that I strive to do the right thing and not fall into the norm [like] so many young people in Hollywood who — because they were raised differently — get caught up in some of the nonsense. And I really try to steer clear of that. So,

you know, we're like that in the same way. We both giggle a lot. We look alike.

On a recent episode, Serena kicked butt playing (the video game) "Guitar Hero" at a party.

Did you do any research for that?

The reason they wrote it in was because I'm such an amazing "Guitar Hero" player. I saw clips of it. It doesn't really debut my skills so well, which I was very disappointed about.

Did you grow up knowing that you wanted to act?

I had no clue what I wanted to do, but I knew it was not acting — just because my whole family (her par-

“At the heart of it all, Serena really wants to be a good person — despite all the chaos that's going on around her.”

BLAKE LIVELY, ON HER CHARACTER

ents and siblings, including sister Robyn Lively, who starred in 1989's "Teen Witch") was in it, and it was the only job I really knew of. And I thought, "That's really cool, but that's not something I want to do." So, I worked my whole life to go to Stanford, and the summer between my junior and senior year of high school, ... my brother decided I would love acting. So, he made his agent send me out on a few auditions. I went on two auditions and I got "Sisterhood." ERIN CARLSON (AP)

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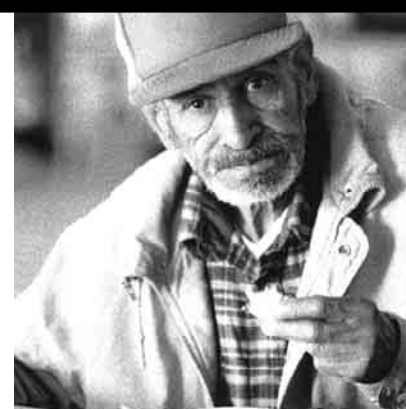
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Television



HE WASN'T THAT KIND OF HUNTER: A conservation group that has vowed to disrupt Japan's annual whale hunt launched its Antarctic campaign by renaming one of its ships after "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin, the late environmental campaigner.

The Heartbeat Goes On

After 299 episodes, 'ER' proves it's the show that never dies

MEDICINE | Tonight's episode of "ER" (10 p.m., NBC) will be the drama's 300th installment. I'm not sure how much these milestones mean outside of a small circle of producers, performers and writers, but the number does put the series in some perspective.

"ER" has been around longer than any scripted series except "Law & Order" and "The Simpsons." When it first aired in 1994, it had the NBC "must-see" lineup as wind



TRIED AND TRUE: Maura Tierney has lasted longer than most on "ER."

in its sails, including "Mad About You," "Friends" and "Seinfeld."

It would take a very long column to list the number of cast changes or the number of characters who have grown ill, become addicted or died during the drama's 13 years. Or the number of bus, car, or helicopter crashes that have flooded the emergency room with patients and the show with guest stars.

"ER," once among the most popular shows in prime time, is not as highly rated as it once was. But, it soldiers on. Tonight, Abby and Kovac return to Croatia to deal with a death in the family. **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

ON TV TONIGHT

CELEBRITY SPOKESMAN
George Clooney narrates **SAND AND SORROW** (8 p.m., HBO), a documentary look at the slaughter in Darfur,

JUST LIKE YOU!
CNN HEROES (9 p.m., CNN) honors "everyday people" for extraordinary deeds at a ceremony broadcast live from New York's Museum of Natural History.

FIGGY PUDDING
Christmas is all about competition in reality television. Personalities from the first three seasons return to saute and simmer on the **TOP CHEF HOLIDAY SPECIAL** (9 p.m., Bravo).

SELFLESS CHARACTER
Meredith scrambles to save the life of a paramedic on **GREY'S ANATOMY** (9 p.m., ABC).



FACES OF THE DISPLACED: Refugees in Sudan make their needs known.

EGREGIOUS ERROR
In a time of anxiety and change, Barbara Walters considers Victoria Beckham among **THE 10 MOST FASCINATING PEOPLE OF 2007** (10 p.m., ABC). **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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	WHUT [32] Tony Brown	Tavis Smiley [66]	BBC World News	A Christmas Celtic Sojourn Live (S Live) [66]					Visions of Italy		Charlie Rose (N) [66]	
	WDCW [50] My Wife and Kids	Family Guy [66]	Two-Half Men	Friends "Pilot" [66]	Smallville "Kara" [66]		Supernatural "The Kids Are All Right"		Family Guy [66]	Friends [66]	Two/Half Men	Sex and the City
BASIC CABLE	A&E	Cold Case Files [66]	CSI: Miami "Slow Burn" [66]	The First 48 [66]			The First 48 [66]		The First 48 "Cincinnati; Miami" (N)		Detroit SWAT [66]	
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter [66]	Growing Up... "Polar Bear Orphan"	Polar Bears Uncovered			Face to Face with the Polar Bear		Animal Cops Houston [66]		Growing Up... "Polar Bear Orphan"	
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Top 10 countdown. (N)	The Black Carpet	Sunday Best [66]			College Hill: Interns Last challenge.		American Gangster [66]		Hell Date [66]	Hell Date [66]
	Bravo	Top Chef "Sense and Sensuality"	Top Chef "Finale" (Part 1 of 2) [66]	Top Chef "Finale" [66]			Top Chef Holiday Special (N)			Tim Gunn's Guide to Style (N) [66]	Top Chef Hol.	
	Comedy	(5:00) ★ "Death to Smoochy" (2002)	Scrubs [66]	Scrubs [66]	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Chappelle's Show	South Park [66]	South Park [66]	S. Silverman	Daily Show	Colbert Report
	Court	World's Wildest Police Videos [66]	Cops [66]	Cops [66]	Bait Car	Bait Car	American Jail	American Jail	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	LA Forensics	Hollywood Heat
	Discovery	How It's Made	How It's Made	Man vs. Wild "Desert Survivor" [66]	Last One Standing Log racing. (N)		How It's Made	How It's Made	MythBusters "Pirates 2!" [66]		Futureweapons "Close Protection" (N)	
	DISCH	Code Blue "Witching Hour" [66]	Trauma: Life in the ER [66]	A Lyon in the Kitchen Potluck dinner.	A Lyon in the Kitchen "Localvore" (N)		Little People, Big World [66]		A Lyon in the Kitchen Potluck dinner.		Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana
	Disney	Hannah Montana	Hannah Montana	Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody		"You Wish!" (2003, Fantasy) A.J. Trauth, Spencer Breslin.	That's So Raven	That's So Raven	Life With Derek	Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana
	E!	Ty Pennington	Chelsea Lately	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)		Kardashians	Kardashians	THS Investigates Hazing		Girl Next Door	Chelsea Lately (N)
	FX	(5:30) ★★ "Dark Blue" (2002, Crime Drama) Kurt Russell, Brendan Gleeson.	★★ "I, Robot" (2004) Will Smith. A homicide detective tracks a dangerous robot in 2035.							(22) ★★ "I, Robot"	(2004) Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan.	
	HGTV	Small Space	If Walls Could	House Worth?	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Carter Can (N)	Divine Design (N)	Color Correction	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	Property Virgins
	Family	8 Simple Rules [66]	8 Simple Rules	"Once Upon a Christmas" (2000, Fantasy) John Dye, Kathy Ireland. [66]	"Twice Upon a Christmas" (2001, Fantasy) Kathy Ireland, John Dye. [66]							The 700 Club [66]
	History	Cities of the Underworld [66]	Modern Marvels: Paint [66]	Modern Marvels: Brewing [66]			Gangland "Race Wars" (N) [66]		Ancient Discoveries [66]		Dogfights "Tuskegee Airmen" (N)	
	Lifetime	Reba [66]	Reba [66]	Still Standing [66]	Reba [66]	Reba "The Wall"		"Home by Christmas" (2006, Drama) Linda Hamilton. [66]				Will & Grace [66]
	MTV	Next Top Model	America's Next Top Model [66]	America's Next Top Model [66]	America's Next Top Model [66]	America's Next Top Model [66]	Run's House [66]	Run's House (N)	True Life [66]			Run's House [66]
	NICK	Drake & Josh [66]	Drake & Josh [66]	Zoey 101 [66]	Ned's School	Drake & Josh [66]	Full House [66]	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	George Lopez [66]	George Lopez [66]	Home Improve.
	SCI FI	★★ "Stephen King's The Langoliers" (1995, Horror) Patricia Wettig, Dean Stockwell, David Morse. Airline passengers awaken to terror.							ECW Starring CM Punk. (Live)		★ "The Bone Snatcher" (2003) [66]	
	SPiKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [66]	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [66]	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [66]	TNA IMPACT! (N) [66]							The Ultimate Fighter [66]
	TBS	Friends [66]	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Friends [66]	Friends [66]	★★ "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989) Chevy Chase. [66]					Sex and the City
	TLC	Flip That House	Flip That House	Overhaulin' Fixing up a 1967 Galaxie.	Wrecks to Riches 1971 Chevelle.		American Chopper [66]		American Chopper [66]			American Chopper [66]
	TNT	Law & Order "Born Again" [66]	Law & Order "Myth of Fingerprints"	NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Dallas Mavericks. From American Airlines Center in Dallas.	NBA Basketball Miami Heat at Portland Trail Blazers.							
	USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent [66]	Law & Order: Criminal Intent [66]	Law & Order: Criminal Intent [66]	Law & Order: Criminal Intent [66]							
	VH1	(5:00) 40 Greatest Pranks [66]	Larry the Cable Guy's Christmas	America's Most Smartest Model [66]	Fabulous Life Of... Wild behavior. [66]							
SPAN.	TELEM	Daniela	Noti-Telemndo	12 Corazones	Madre Luna		Victoria		Pecados Ajenos		Noti-Telemndo	Mas Vale Tarde
	UNIV	Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Yo Amo a Juan Querendón (N)	Amar sin Limites (N)		Pasión		Aquí y Ahora		Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.
SPORTS	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live) [66]		2007 College Football Awards Show (Live) [66]			College Basketball LSU vs. Villanova. From Philadelphia. (Live)					SportsCenter
	ESPN2	(5:30) X-Fighters	Football Live	College Basketball Providence vs. South Carolina. From Philadelphia. (Live)	High School Basketball				Mix Tape Tour		Varsity Inc. (N)	Varsity Inc. (N)
	CSN	SportsNite (Live) [66]	Redskins Kick-off (Live)	College Basketball Morgan State at Maryland. (Live)					SportsNite (Live) [66]		Redskins Post Game Live (Live)	
NEWS	CNN	(4:00) The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight [66]	Out in the Open	Larry King Live [66]				Anderson Cooper 360 [66]			
	FNC	Special Report [66]	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Factor [66]	Hannity & Colmes [66]				On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
	MSNBC	Tucker	Hardball [66]	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Live With Dan Abrams				MSNBC Reports		Facing the Music	
MOVIES	AMC	(5:00) ★★ "The Fog" (1980) 'R' [66]	★★ "The Ninth Gate" (1999) Johnny Depp. A rare-book dealer is hired to track down two satanic tomes. 'R' [66]						Mad Men "Long Weekend" [66]		(15) ★★ "The Ninth Gate" (1999) 'R'	
	TCM	(15) ★★ "Footsteps in the Fog" (1955) Jean Simmons. Premiere. 'NR'	★★ "This Man Is Mine" (1934) Irene Dunne. 'NR'						★★ "The Secret of Madame Blanche" (1933) 'NR' [66]		★ "No Other Woman" (1933) 'NR'	
	HBO	(15) ★★ "The Nativity Story" (2006) Keisha Castle-Hughes. [66] PG' [66]	★★ "Sand and Sorrow" (2007) Premiere. [66] NR' [66]						I Am Legend		Mayweather	Chris Rock Show
	MAX	(5:50) ★★ "Star Wars: Episode I -- The Phantom Menace" (1999) 'PG' [66]	(15) ★★ "Snakes on a Plane" (2006) Samuel L. Jackson. [66] 'R' [66]						★★ "Miami Vice" (2006, Crime Drama) Colin Farrell, Jamie Foxx. [66] 'R' [66]			
	SHOW	While-Sleeping	(45) ★ "Love Stinks" (1999, Comedy) French Stewart. ITV Premiere. 'R'	(25) ★★ "Saw II" (2005) Donnie Wahlberg. 'R' [66]					Dexter (TV) [66]		(10:58) Brotherhood (ITV) [66]	
	TMC	(5:30) ★★ "The Lost City" (2005, Drama) Andy Garcia. [66] 'R' [66]	★★ "Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit" (1993) Whoopi Goldberg. [66] 'PG'						(9:50) ★★ "Dirty Dancing" (1987) Jennifer Grey. [66]		★★★ Bandits	
	STARZ!	(5:30) "10 Things I Hate About You"	(10) ★★ "Step Up" (2006, Musical) Channing Tatum, Mario. [66] PG-13' [66]						★★ "Stomp the Yard" (2007, Drama) Columbus Short. [66] PG-13' [66]		★ "Primeval" (2007) Dominic Purcell.	
	ENCORE	(05) ★★ "Romancing the Stone" (1984) Michael Douglas. [66] 'PG' [66]	★★★ "The Wedding Singer" (1998) Adam Sandler. [66]						(45) ★★ "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" (2005) 'PG' [66]			

Classifieds

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ext, 4 dr, Lthr Int, 301-523-0652

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alarm, fog lights, CD, 571 236 1064

Nissan 2000 Maxima — GXE, \$3600 obo, Excel-
lent cond, 60k mi, Black int, Gray ext, 4 dr, Htd
Seats, DVD, Please email me: muier-
apid5@yahoo.com

Nissan 1993 Altima — GXE, \$3500 obo, Excel cnd,
Dir Maint'd 87k mi, All Pwr, Blue, ABS, 571-235-
2337 New tires Exhst t-chain etc.

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VOLVO '93 240 STATION WAGON Auto, 4 cyl, runs
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LOOK out

*TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

INSIDE

The hottest jeans look this season? Try anything | 39



Live Online: Martina Navratilova chats | 40

Bush Baby: Jenna calls dad on TV show | 42



PHOTOS BY MIGUEL TOVAR/AP

WINTER DESTINATION: Millions of monarch butterflies migrate south from the U.S. and Canada to Mexico each year, spending November to March in sanctuaries like Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve.

Mexico's Monarchs

Travel

Butterfly sanctuaries attract both insects and tourists in winter

If you'd rather see butterflies on a mountaintop than slather yourself with sunblock on a tourist-packed beach in Cancun, Mexico is an ideal winter destination.

Ecotourism is drawing fans in the central states of Michoacan and Mexico, thanks to the spectacular yearly migration of millions of orange- and black-winged mon-

arch butterflies.

In delicate swarms, the butterflies head south from the U.S. and Canada to Mexico, where they drip from pine trees and coat mountainsides from November to late March. They gather in such astonishing numbers that cars passing the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve sometimes have to slow to speeds of a couple of miles per hour to avoid splattering the delicate creatures on the windshield as they fly across the road.

"I have on many occasions seen Spaniards, Italians, Americans, Canadians, Mexicans come into the butterfly colonies and literally weep," said Lincoln Brower,

"It's such an overwhelming emotional experience to realize that you're actually looking at ... monarch butterflies."

LINCOLN BROWER, MONARCH EXPERT

a monarch expert at the University of Florida and Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, Va.

"It's such an overwhelming emotional experience to realize that you're actually looking at

these tens of millions of monarch butterflies that have come into this tiny, little area of Mexico."

The Biosphere Reserve, a federally protected area nominated for World Heritage Site status, spans about 124,000 acres across two states and costs less than \$5 to enter and \$10 more for a guided tour. In some parts, visitors can trek about on rented horses and burros.

Communal farmers own the land and have the exclusive right to conduct tours. For that reason, many guides don't speak English — so bring a Spanish dictionary if you want to ask questions about the butterflies.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon plans to pump an extra \$4.6 million into the reserve's \$36.4 million budget this year, to improve infrastructure and make the area more tourist-friendly.

Four butterfly sanctuaries are open to the public on the property: El Rosario and Sierra Chincua in Michoacan, and El Capulin and La Mesa in Mexico state. Brower, who has studied the flying insects for 52 years, recommends the Michoacan sanctuaries, which, he says,

are among the most popular and offer amenities such as food, souvenirs and easy access by car. He suggests visiting in February and March, when the butterflies perform an elaborate mating ritual.

"The males chase the females — they zoom around after them and catch them in the air and drop like a dead weight," Brower said. "Then the male flies off carrying the female, and he'll land up in the trees and mate for several hours."

Astrid Fisch, director of operations for Ecotours de Mexico, an environmentally conscious travel agency based in Puerto Vallarta, said she tells foreign clients to go on weekdays to avoid throngs of Mexican tourists.

Be prepared to hike anywhere from 20 minutes to more than an hour or to ride a donkey. You can reach the butterflies only on paths laid by the reserve, and the butterflies congregate at extremely high altitudes — between 9,000 and 11,000 feet — so visitors should be in good enough physical condition to handle steep inclines.

JESSICA BERNSTEIN-WAX (AP)

E-Books Bounce Back

Business

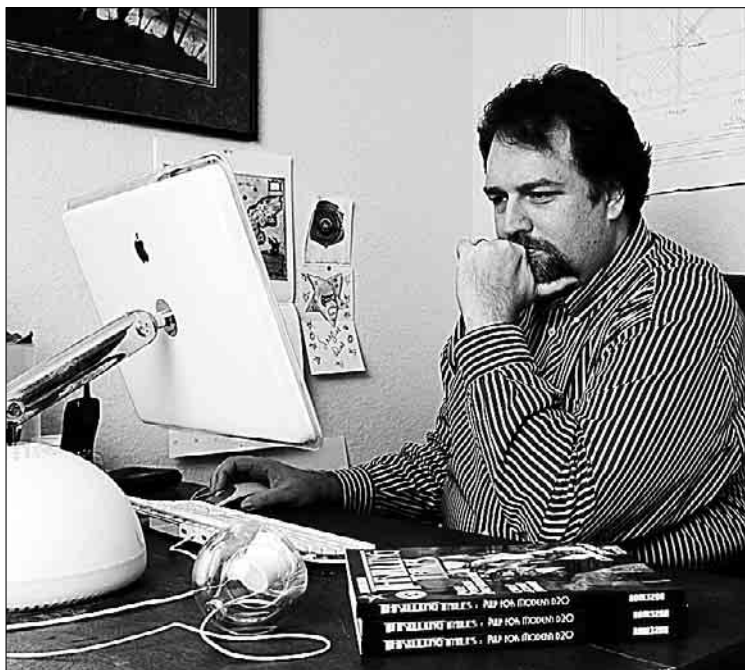
Electronic format fills valuable need among role-playing gamers

For a decade now, publishers have been hoping to wean readers off books and move them to electronic versions, which are much cheaper to produce and distribute.

It just hasn't happened, even with the support of an electronics giant like Sony, which put out a dedicated e-book reader last year. Amazon.com Inc. recently followed up with its own reader.

But if you look away from the mainstream publishing industry, e-books are already a success in a few niches, where they are giving rise to new ways of doing business. The standout example is role-playing games, but buyers of college textbooks and even romance novels are warming to e-books.

Witness Gareth-Michael Skarka, a representative of one of our newest



Gareth-Michael Skarka commissions, edits and sells electronic books for a living.

professions: the e-book publisher. "E-book publishers" that reformat printed books into electronic formats have been around for a while, but Skarka commissions, edits and sells books that overwhelmingly never see print and would never

have existed if it weren't for electronic publishing.

"Most of our customers are fairly comfortable with the electronic format," said Skarka. He pulls in about \$50,000 per year in sales, enough to make a living in Lawrence, Kan.,

"It's really nifty to be able to ... plug in my laptop and everything is there, as opposed to lugging 40 books."

MARC ZUCKERMAN, E-BOOKS READER

where he is based.

The 156 e-books in Portable Document Format, or PDF, sold by Skarka's Adamant Entertainment aren't exactly highbrow literature. With titles like "Slavers of Mars," and "One Million Magic Items," they're aimed at people who play role-playing games — the most famous of which is "Dungeons & Dragons."

Skarka's prices are mostly less than \$10, but e-books aren't hugely cheaper than printed books, because most of the PDFs are short.

Role-players buy lots of books, which contain rules for their games or expand on the imaginary worlds

in which they are set. It's more like reference material than long narratives. Industry insiders see that as a reason role-players like PDFs.

"In general, it's not the 300-page prose novels that people want to read on the screen," said Steve Wieck, who co-founded Atlanta-based role-playing games publisher White Wolf Inc., in the early 90s.

Wieck started noticing that a lot of White Wolf's releases would be scanned by fans and pirated online. Following a "can't beat 'em — join 'em" strategy, he and his brother started DriveThruRPG.com in 2004 to sell PDFs, gathering books from many publishers.

Wieck and Skarka estimate that e-book sales make up 10 percent of the \$25 million in annual RPG sales. DriveThruRPG alone does \$2 million in business annually.

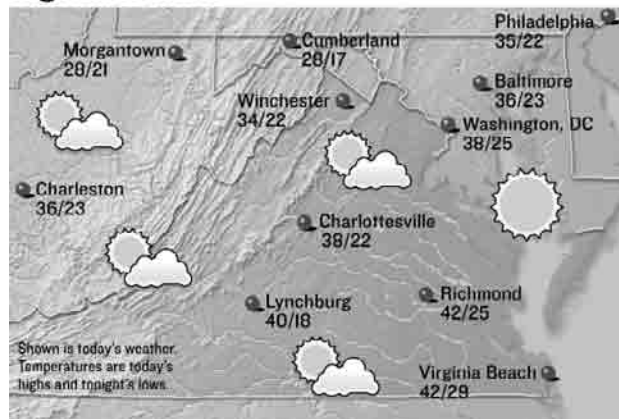
Marc Zuckerman, a role-player in Rockville Centre, N.Y., bought his first e-book six months ago, even though he already has, or at least may have, a print copy of the book. His copy of the superhero game "Villains and Vigilantes" got lost. Originally published in 1982, it's out of print but available on DriveThruRPG.

"It's really nifty to be able to walk into a gaming session and plug in my laptop and everything is there, as opposed to lugging 40 books," Zuckerman said. (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Mostly sunny	Partly cloudy	Mainly cloudy	Periods of clouds and sunshine	Some sun; warm in the afternoon	Cloudy, a shower possible; warm
38°	25°	45° / 37°	51° / 36°	53° / 46°	60° / 46°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Wed.

Temperature

High	33°
Low	30°
Normal high	50°
Normal low	35°
Average humidity	80%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.11"
Month to date	0.41"
Normal month to date	0.50"
Year to date	30.06"
Last year to date	46.27"
Normal year to date	36.80"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

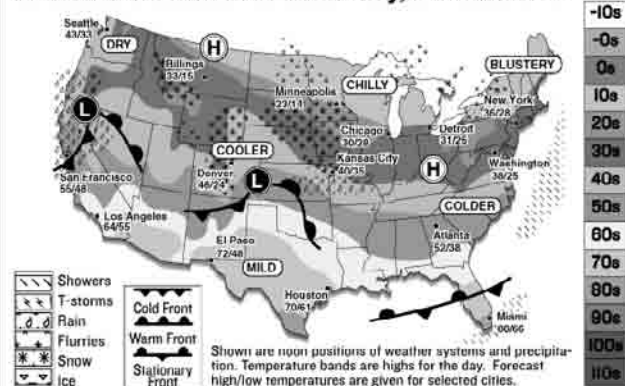
D.C. Metro: Today, mostly sunny. High 38. Wind north 4-8 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 25. Wind light, variable. Friday, mostly cloudy.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:12 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:46 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:25 a.m.
Moonset today	2:32 p.m.

	New	First	Full	Last
Dec 9				
Dec 17				
Dec 23				
Dec 31				

National Weather for Thursday, December 6



National Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	52/38/s	58/46/pc
Boston	33/25/s	38/32/c
Chicago	30/28/pc	35/21/sn
Dallas	68/62/s	78/64/pc
Denver	46/24/c	36/21/i
Honolulu	76/72/r	81/69/r
Los Angeles	64/55/c	58/46/r
Miami	80/66/e	80/67/pc
New York City	36/28/a	42/35/c
Orlando	72/51/s	81/58/pc
Seattle	43/33/pc	42/30/s

World Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Amsterdam	48/45/sh	52/41/r
Athens	54/45/pc	57/48/c
Berlin	48/43/sh	50/39/r
Buenos Aires	84/63/s	77/63/pc
Calgary	15/6/pc	14/4/pc
Dublin	57/43/r	48/39/pc
Geneva	46/41/sh	45/41/r
Moscow	32/27/pc	30/23/c
Rome	59/40/pc	57/53/pc
Sydney	75/69/sh	86/70/sh
Tokyo	55/44/s	56/44/s

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Styles

LOOK
out

DIY Denim

Good news: Every style of jean is 'in' this holiday season

Wide legs. Skinny legs. High-waisted. Not high-waisted.

If you want to buy denim, the range of popular styles this holiday season can leave even the fashion-savvy hard-pressed to pick out the right look. The flip side: You are just about assured of finding something that looks good on anyone.

That's why some retailers are offering more personalized service in the form of "jeans experts" to help customers make the most appropriate purchases.

"The rules for denim have really changed over the past few seasons," said National Jeans Co.'s online

denim expert, Carly Lundy. "Now, no matter your figure, your size, your height, your weight, you can always find a fit."

Denim experts say clean, dark washes are popular for a fancier look, while casual styles range from worn and tattered to classic bootleg or straight-leg cuts. Two of the hottest women's styles are at opposite ends of the spectrum: wide-leg and skinny-leg.

Taller, thinner women are reaching for the tight styles, while those with an athletic build might prefer higher-rise, wide-leg cuts.

Zafu.com has an eight-question survey to help shoppers find the "perfect jeans in three minutes." Site visitors shouldn't be shy about disclosing information about their "saddle bags" or "stick legs" and need

(1) William Rast Savory Bootcut

When National Jeans Co. announced that Jessica Simpson wore this \$244 pair, sales of the brand increased 400 percent.

(2) 7 for All Mankind Ginger

These casual, wide-leg, high-rise pants go for \$158 to \$185.

(3) J Brand 942 This low-rise, pencil-leg jean (\$160) has covered the bum of "Private Practice" heartbreaker Kate Walsh.

to determine whether they'd like the jeans to make their rear-end look "booty-licious" or make wider legs look "long and lean."

At Levi Strauss & Co., the company has phased out its glass "body scan" booths, introduced in 2005, whose technology traced a custom-

er's body and suggested sizes and styles. Instead, Levi's is relying on experts on the floor who can drive sales by guiding customers to the right style.

Customers are also driven by what their favorite stars are wearing. When Lundy noticed that pop star Jessica Simpson wore William Rast's Savory Bootcut jeans on several occasions, she sent an e-mail out to customers. That drove sales of the style up 400 percent, and sales of the brand — with prices from \$230 to \$245 per pair — up 75 percent.

While shoppers may be more willing to spend a few hundred dollars on a pair of jeans, they're not buying as many, according to said Marshal Cohen, chief analyst at NPD Group. Overall jeans sales have risen just 1.2 percent so far this year, compared with 7.8 percent last year.

"A more discriminating purchase is being made," Cohen said. "It's not about the price anymore; it's not about sticker shock. It's about the look." LAUREN TARA LACAPRA (AP)

Fashion



A Glove Connection

It's like an online dating service for long-lost gloves. A Texas native who experienced her first snowflakes in Pittsburgh last year was miffed by the lost gloves she spotted all over the city. So, Jennifer Gooch, an arts graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University, started ONECOLDHAND.COM in an effort to reunite dropped gloves with their mates. When she finds a glove, she leaves a sticker directing searchers to her site, where people can report found gloves and request stickers. She hasn't made any connections in the two weeks the site's been live but says it's OK if it never happens. (AP)

Holiday



Chemical Goodness

If non-food products that smelled like food actually tasted like food, we would all be dead. That's chemicals: They giveth, and they taketh away. Mrs. Meyer's gingerbread-scented **HOLIDAY CLEAN-UP KIT** (above, \$15, MrsMeyers.com) will make countertops, dishes, kitchens and floors smell like cookies. They will still taste the same, though. The Holiday Hand Care Set (\$10) fixes up chapped paws after scrubbing with the former. HOLLY J. MORRIS (EXPRESS)

LOOK out Online

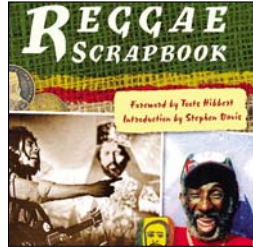

readexpress.com

site specifics

REGGAE

A Collector's One Love

Obsessive collector Roger Steffens owns so many reggae records and artifacts that his wife refers to their old home as the "House of Piles." Express' Christopher Porter spoke with Steffens about his new coffee table edition, "Reggae Scrapbook," and trying to sell off his iconic collection. | [ONLINE NOW](#)



BAGGAGE CHECK

Shuffling the Cards

Gift cards are a boon for the indecisive: those of us who can't figure out what to buy for Aunt Ida or who can't put our fingers on what we'd like in return. Why is it, then, that so many gift cards — more than a quarter — go unredeemed? Dr. Andrea investigates. | [COMING UP](#)

FREE RIDE

Alternative Taxi Plan

When D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty announced his pricing plan for new time-and-distance meters in District taxicabs, the move was not met with city-wide approval. Michael Grass details one citizens group's attempt to change the mayor's mind. | [COMING UP](#)



comment board

“I voted no [because] he had no credibility to begin with. And there is no real threat posed to our country by Iran.”

COMMENTER ME, WHO ADDED, “ECONOMICALLY, THEY POTENTIALLY POSE A THREAT, BUT THAT’S MOSTLY BASED ON OUR GOVERNMENT’S OVERSPENDING.”

“Regardless of the spokesperson, does anyone seriously believe that Ahmadinejad isn't building a bomb in Iran?”

COMMENTER FREEMAN, WHO ADDED, “AFTER ALL THAT HE HAS STATED ABOUT HIS RELIGION'S GOALS, ONE WOULD BE A FOOL TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE.”



“Of course, he doesn't have much credibility to lose. If he told me the sky is blue and the grass is green, I would want to run outside to check.”

COMMENTER DANIELLE, RESPONDING TO WEDNESDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, “HAS PRESIDENT BUSH LOST ALL CREDIBILITY IN MAKING HIS CASE AGAINST IRAN?”

poll center

SPONSORED BY



YESTERDAY'S RESULTS (AS OF 5 P.M.)

HAS PRESIDENT BUSH LOST ALL CREDIBILITY IN MAKING HIS CASE AGAINST IRAN?

YES 67%

NO 33%

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT [READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP](http://readexpress.com/pollcenter.php)



“I have a theory about anti-establishment anti-social dropouts. It's not society they hate; it's themselves. They hate their own nature.”

ROISSY.WORDPRESS.COM DISCUSSES ISOLATIONIST COMMUNES AFTER TALKING TO A MEMBER OF WEST VIRGINIA'S ZENDIK COMMUNITY WHO WAS SELLING T-SHIRTS IN GEORGETOWN.



“CALL ME ALARMIST, but I see this and think that some terrorist organization will have a person hacking in to fudge an electronic boarding pass. Hell, you could fudge any ID, but this just seems like an easy back door.”

AN ENGADGET.COM COMMENTER CHIMES IN ON CONTINENTAL AIRLINES' TESTING OF A CELLPHONE-BASED BOARDING SYSTEM FOR AIRLINE PASSENGERS THAT'S BEING TRIED OUT IN HOUSTON.



“LOOK AT THOSE

upholstered 'leaning' benches. ... Just add some hinges and a hole for your face, and, voila! Instant massage therapy/chiropractic table! Who wouldn't pay a fare premium to hear the conductor announce, 'Red Line ... to stress reduction!'”

A DCIST.COM COMMENTER POKES FUN AT A FEATURE IN NEW METRO RAILCARS.

“RAMPANT AND UNINFORMED

rumors about the federal government closing early ... start out small ('I heard we're getting out at 4:'), will gradually grow, ('Bob just said Jane told him that she heard on WTOP that Metro's getting crushed, and they're letting us go at 2:') and then become something like 'Bush just announced that al-Qaeda's attacking us with snow!'”

THEDCUNIVERSE.BLOGSPOT.COM HATES OVERREACTION TO SNOW THREATS.

“If there were free seats to be had, they surely should have been offered, but not because [Chelsea Clinton] is a member of a presidential family and not because she is a woman.”

A JEZEBEL.COM COMMENTER JOINS A VIBRANT DEBATE OVER A PHOTO OF CHELSEA CLINTON SITTING ON THE FLOOR OF A CROWDED NEW YORK CITY STARBUCKS.

Discussions

Tennis and Life

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA was online Wednesday to talk about tennis, her career and her new appointment as ambassador of health and fitness to the AARP.

What drove you to go into tennis and excel? Did you have driven parents and coaches when you were young?

I love playing tennis, and I loved learning new things. I loved the evolution of the game and having to figure out new techniques and new tactics. I thought I was burned

out in '89, but after just taking a couple weeks off, I realized how much I still loved the game and kept playing, and the rest is history. Nobody pushed me; I loved the game.

How much effect do you think the improved racket technology has had on professional tennis?

It's improved racket technology, but I don't know if it's improved tennis, because the new technology has placed the premium on power and thus made the game a lot more one-dimensional.

Does your activism in support of gay equality still have an impact on endorsement offers?

I don't know, but since I just became

health and fitness ambassador to AARP, which is one of the biggest member organizations in the world and has one of the most respected brands in the world, my sexuality was completely irrelevant, which I hope one day will always be the case.

Who would win at arm wrestling: you or John McEnroe?

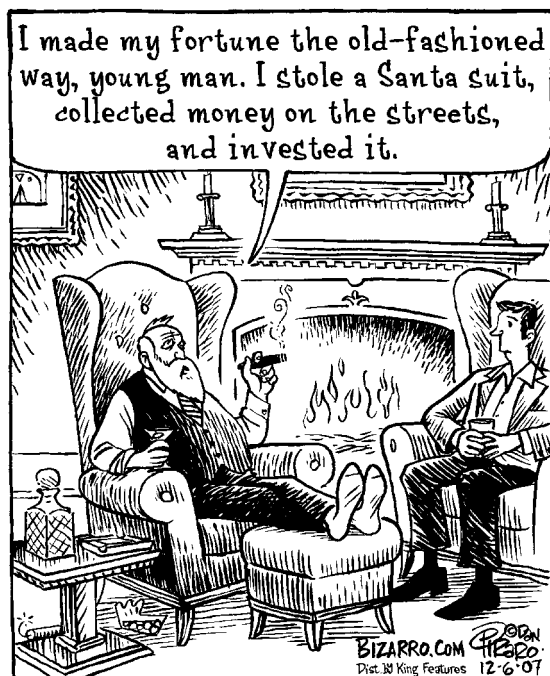
There's still that question of testosterone. No matter how much weightlifting I may try to do — which I don't do — he will always have more testosterone than me.

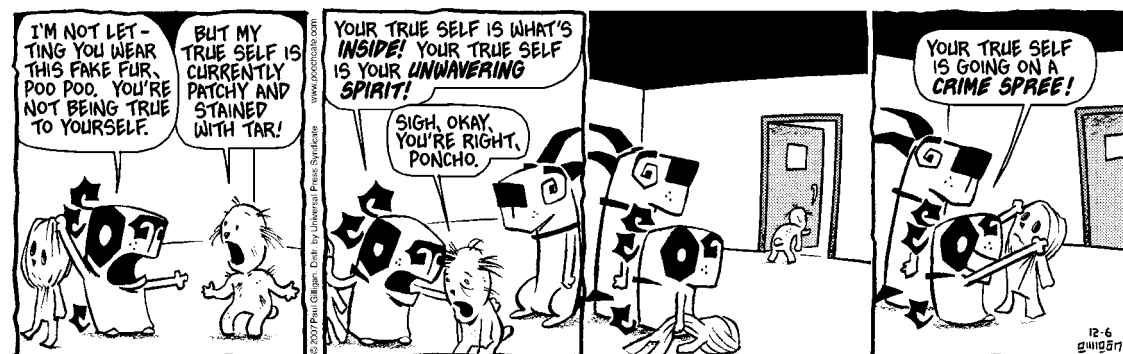
TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS:

Washington Post staff writer Jason La Canfora takes your questions about the Redskins at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/discussions.

DON'T

EXPECT TO SEE ANY MORE SITTING BULL MEMENTOES. The Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History planned Wednesday to return a lock of hair and leggings belonging to Sioux Indian Chief Sitting Bull to his descendants as keepsakes.

Bizarro | Dan Piraro

Cornered | Mike Baldwin

Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan

Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy

Horoscope
By Stella Wilder

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Take the time to figure things out ahead of time, and you should find that very little — if anything — can slow you down.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) That sneaking suspicion you've had for a while is likely to nag you into taking action prematurely. Try not to offend anyone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is a fine day to explore options in a more aggressive manner. There is little or no reason for you to fear your own progress.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You can get along quite well with someone while disapproving of his or her recent decisions. It's not up to you to judge or criticize.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your unusual behavior is likely to be wholly justified — but you will still want to explain yourself as clearly as you can on occasion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Make sure that your feet are firmly on the ground

even as you pursue a dream that is still in the making.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Pay attention to the activities of those around you. You'll be affected, whether or not you are directly involved.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Someone who has been in the background will step into the limelight and give you a timely push in an exciting new direction. You'll be inspired.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Those who insist on lagging aren't really worthy of your attention. They'll catch up when they realize you're not looking back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may be slowing down, but you can still reach the goal you've set for yourself this week if you buckle down and stay focused.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You may have reached an important goal during the past few days, and after a brief rest you're ready to be on the ball once more.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You may not prove the dominant influence that you expect, but you will have an impact before nightfall. Others may be surprised.



Winona Ryder, left, sits with her lawyer during her trial on shoplifting charges.

Today in History

1907 The worst mining disaster in U.S. history occurs as 362 men and boys die in a coal mine explosion in Monongah, W.Va.

1957 AFL-CIO members vote to expel the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The Teamsters were readmitted in 1987 but disaffiliated themselves in 2005.

1973 House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford is sworn in as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew.

1989 Fourteen women are shot to death at the University of Montreal's school of engineering by a man who then takes his own life.

2002 Actress Winona Ryder is sentenced to community service as part of a probationary term for stealing more than \$5,500 worth of merchandise from Saks Fifth Avenue.

Correction:

A "Top Stop" in Wednesday's Entertainment section referred to Eric Brace as the "former frontman of Last Train Home." He is, in fact, the current frontman for that group.

LOOK out

People



STAN HONDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

With the right shutter speed and lens, anyone can see how stars really look.

CHOICES

Next Time, Pick a Needier Star — Maybe Winona Ryder

A former mental patient accused of stalking **UMA THURMAN** rejected a plea offer that would have put him in a psychiatric facility and settled charges against him. (AP)

ENDORSEMENTS

Collagen Injections Sue for Not Being Promoted at All

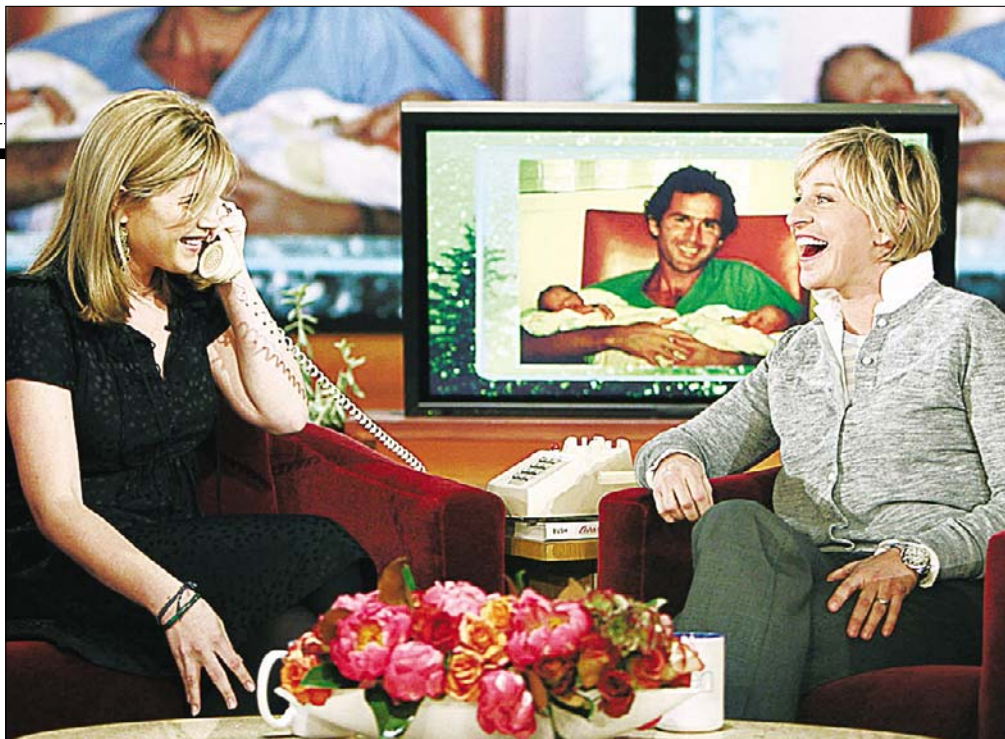


TERI HATCHER is being sued for \$2.4 million for promoting a lip gloss. Hydro-derm's suit claims Hatcher endorsed both its Volumizing Lip Serum and City Cosmetics' City Lips. (AP)

GREETINGS

Secret Service Rolls Eyes

JENNA BUSH appeared nervous when Ellen DeGeneres asked her to call her parents Tuesday. "They're going to kill me," said Bush, who was on DeGeneres' show to promote her new book. But her father wasn't angry. "I do want to say 'Merry Christmas' to your audience, and to tell my little girl I love her," the president said to Ellen. (AP)



TOBY CANHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Britney no longer has a reflection.

SAD

Spears Case Now So Ugly It Turns Law Clerks to Stone

Investigators are looking into "multiple child abuse and neglect" allegations in the custody battle between **BRITNEY SPEARS** and Kevin Federline. An attorney for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services wrote that there are concerns about the safety of the two children if left in Spears' care. (AP)

Those eyes could only be creepier with cat pupils.



WILL

Ol' Creepy Eyes Stares Court Into Submission

Dublin prosecutors dropped charges against **JONATHAN RHYNS MEYERS** on Wednesday after he expressed remorse for being drunk and abusive at Dublin Airport. Rhys Meyers, 30, was arrested Nov. 18. He "unreservedly apologizes" to airport personnel, his lawyer told the court. (AP)

WHERE JOBS AND JOB SEEKERS MEET.

THE WASHINGTON POST
CAREER FAIR

Free shuttle service available to job seekers every half hour beginning at 10:30 a.m. from the Dunn Loring Metro Station. Last shuttle leaves the hotel for Dunn Loring at 5:15 p.m.

**Thursday,
December 6
11 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Sheraton Premiere at
Tyson's Corner
8661 Leesburg Pike
Vienna, VA 22182

The Washington Post
washingtonpost.com

Pre-register, submit your resume online, and get more information at washingtonpost.com/careerfairs. A partial list of participating employers will be available online two weeks prior to the fair.

Questions?

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Employers Contact: 877-842-3976 x18 or jamie@expoexpertsllc.com

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Candidates must have: US citizenship and either 2 years of related industry experience plus degree, or military background.

► Cleared Only

Candidates must have: US citizenship, active security clearance within past 24 months, and either 2 years of related industry experience plus degree, or military background.

► Health Care Only

Medical related experience required.

J575 3x5



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www.jypi.org

LOOK out

CROSSWORD | MUSIC MAKERS

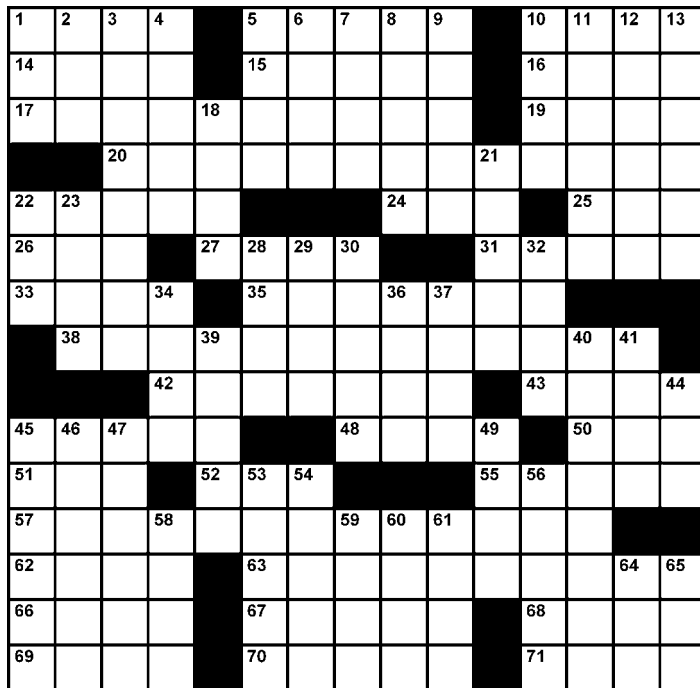
ACROSS

1 "And I will give him the morning ____" (Rev. 2:28)
5 A Marx brother
10 Silent film vamp Theda
14 Good rating, for steak?
15 "My Cherie ____" (Stevie Wonder song)
16 Lively old dance
17 Accommo-date
19 Ocean flapper
20 Folding entryway
22 Cube root of 27
24 Virginia college, briefly
25 Took the bait
26 Tennis shot
27 Fax button
31 Some leather workers
33 Like Arthur Fonzairelli
35 Place to berth a ship
38 Certain halftime performer
42 Snoop's vantage
43 Wee bit
45 Slangy farewell
48 Zoo attraction
50 Whelp
51 Kind of tray
52 "At Seventeen" singer Janis
55 Jockey Arcaro
57 Inside informer
62 Fairway alert
63 Without rational basis

66 Constellation bear
67 Memorable saying
68 Russian ruler, once
69 Nullified tennis serves
70 Sialom's makeup
71 Memo words

DOWN

1 Bunt, on a scorecard
2 When repeated, extreme
3 Michigan city
4 Reconnaissance
5 Symbol of goodness
6 Arabian VIP
7 "The Long and Winding ____"
8 Russian president
9 Two-tone snacks
10 Born partner
11 Bacterium requiring oxygen
12 "The Bathes" painter Pierre Auguste
13 Advisories
18 Finishes, as the cake
21 Push gently
22 Letters of devotion
23 Car part
28 TV award
29 Flood survivor
30 Martial arts schools
32 Legendary Himalayan



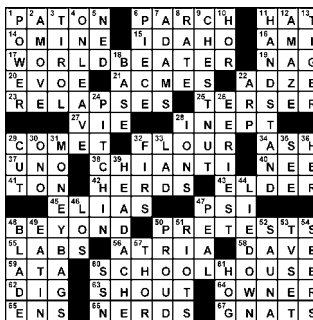
EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

creature

34 Gospel writer
36 Actor's quest
37 Forte, so to speak
39 Be worthy of
40 Scatter fertilizer over a lawn
41 Lady's small case
44 Simian
45 Legitimate
46 On liberty, e.g.
47 Parched feeling
49 Less than decent
53 Aquatic organisms

54 School clique, perhaps
56 Triangle of land in a river
58 Red and Dead
59 Constricting snakes
60 Winter Olympics vehicle
61 Some bills
64 Remained unused
65 Broadway letters for a hit show

Yesterday's Solution



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Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. See www.sudoku.com for solution, tips and computer program.

Need more Su/doku?

Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

Yesterday's Solution

5	6	4	1	3	7	9	8	2
7	9	2	4	5	8	6	1	3
8	1	3	9	2	6	5	7	4
2	7	1	5	9	3	8	4	6
3	4	5	8	6	1	7	2	9
9	8	6	7	4	2	1	3	5
6	5	7	3	1	4	2	9	8
4	2	8	6	7	9	3	5	1
1	3	9	2	8	5	4	6	7

			8	1				
3	1					5	7	
9				3	6			
		4			8			
		7				6		
			4			1		
			7	9				6
	5	9					2	7
				5	2			

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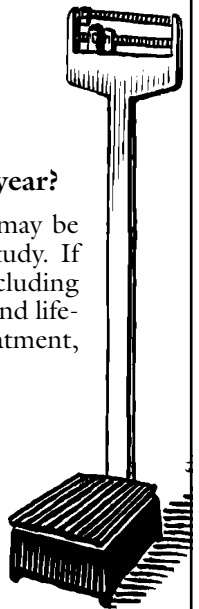
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[on the]spot

✱ **NAME:** Phoebe Damrosch
GIG: Author of "Service Included:
 Four-Star Secrets of an
 Eavesdropping Waiter"

STUMBLING AROUND New York in her mid-20s, Phoebe Damrosch almost accidentally landed a job at Per Se, Thomas Keller's ultra-high-end bid for East Coast success. Her account of an 18-month stint is billed as "Kitchen Confidential" meets "Sex and the City," but it leans toward the latter, — heavy on the romance, light on the roaches. It dwells mostly in the mysterious realm of the dining room, where the challenge is for servers to be "invisible" but not "ghostly."

How would you rate the posture of the woman busing tables on the cover of your book?

The posture is fine. The problem is that her left thumb is in the plate that she's holding, which is really a

no-no. She would be fired.

Really?

Well ... she would be chastised. Even if she's holding a dirty plate, you should never have your fingers inside of the rim of the plate.

David Byrne said, "Table manners are for people who have nothing better to do." Does anyone have anything better to do?

I was actually surprised at the lack of table manners, often. It doesn't really matter where you go — people are people. It was always astounding to me that they grew up in a barn.

Does it really "put the guest at ease" to be spied on relentlessly?

Most people, I don't think, realize that they're being spied on. Also, I think the key to being successful as a waiter is to eavesdrop. Someone will say to the friend next to them that their fish is cold, but they will



COURTESY HARPERCOLLINS

SERVICE WITH A SMILE: Damrosch slung some of the finest hash in the country.

rarely say it to anyone working at the restaurant, so you have to overhear that if you're gonna fix it. ... And it's not always verbal — sometimes you can just read by someone's body language that they're not happy about something.

How important is it for a restaurant critic to remain anonymous?

Even if you're not successful, I think

it's important to at least try to be.

Why is that, if everyone's got pictures of [New York Times restaurant critic] Frank Bruni posted backstage?

He still slips in. And oftentimes, he'll slip in and be recognized halfway through the meal, so he's already had half of the meal to witness what the restaurant does when

"I was actually surprised at the lack of table manners, often."

they don't think you're important.

Do you feel that critics downplay the significance of service?

I do, but I don't think it's entirely their fault. I think that service is kind of the stepchild — it's the thing that is really, really important, but no one wants to admit it or talk about it. GLENN DIXON

→ *St. John's Greens Sale and Authors' Table*, 3240 O St. NW; Sat., noon-2 p.m. (Damrosch) 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (other writers, including Jim Lehrer), free; 202-338-1796. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)
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Heady Seasonal Spirits

Hope, humor and a D.C. twist fuel a clever new 'Christmas Carol'

STAGE | Those with politically divided guests this holiday season may find solace in Arena Stage's "Christmas Carol 1941." Conservatives will enjoy the chest-pounding, pro-war sentiments, while liberals will love all the talk of charity and government regulation of business.

The last production at Arena Stage's Fichandler Arena for the next 29 months, James Magruder's commissioned take on the Dickens classic takes place in D.C. just after Pearl Harbor. Our grinchy central figure is one Elijah Strube (James Gale), a war profiteer who reflexively barks "Bullcrap!" at the mere



THE WAR AT HOME: The Cratchit-like Schroen family manages to remain cheery.

mention of Christmas. His trade of choice: the scaly underbelly of the pineapple industry.

Strube out-Scrooges Scrooge

by not just haranguing his loyal employee, Henry Schroen (Lawrence Redmond), but by firing him outright on Christmas Eve. Add-

ing to the troubles of Henry and his wife, Margarette (Nancy Robinette), is their 17-year-old son, Butch, who vows to enlist on his next birthday. Between Butch and the precociously saccharine moppet Carolyn (Mollie Clement), the play cobbles together a Tiny Tim hybrid.

Of course, salvation arrives for the Schroens when the great beyond scares Strube straight.

Particularly striking is the ghost of Marley (Hugh Nees). The remaining spirits are represented as statues — the gilded Winged Victory, Freedom and Grief. Director Molly Smith compensates for the story's familiarity with clever effects and a local flavoring. **ERIN TROMPETER**

→ *Arena Stage, 1101 6th St. SW; through Dec. 30, \$52-\$66; 202-488-3300. (Waterfront-SEU)*

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A Man Vanishes: The Legacy of Shohei Imamura

Through Dec. 23

Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution / AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center



Film stills from Eijanaika

Special screening and panel discussion at the Meyer Auditorium, Freer Gallery of Art.

In 2006 international cinema lost one of its most cherished filmmakers: Shohei Imamura. His films are audacious, wildly entertaining examinations of Japanese society and culture. Full of wicked humor, perverse sexuality, and startling images, these films made Imamura a leading figure in postwar Japanese cinema.

In conjunction with the Sackler exhibition *Patterned Feathers, Piercing Eyes: Edo Masters from the Price Collection*, the Freer brings together three experts to discuss Shohei Imamura's unique relationship to Japanese cinema and traditional culture.

The World Is Cruel When It's Changing: Edo, Imamura, and Eijanaika
Sunday, December 9, 1 PM

Followed by:

Eijanaika (a.k.a. Why Not)
Sunday, December 9, 2:30 PM
Intended for mature audiences. (1981, 151 min.)

Imamura depicts the fall of the Tokugawa shogunate through the eyes of peasants in this dazzling, earthy evocation of late Edo-era 1860s Japan. It takes its title from the hedonistic riot that provides the film's remarkable climax. "A delirious exercise in sex, crime and weirdness ... Imamura imbues the cruelty with virtuoso ferocity and an appalling, visionary beauty." (J. Hoberman, *Village Voice*)

Tickets for both events will be available beginning at noon on December 9.

Panelists:

James Quandt, senior programmer, Cinematheque Ontario and editor of books about Robert Bresson, Shohei Imamura, and Kon Ichikawa.

Joan Mellen, professor of English and creative writing, Temple University, whose books on Japanese cinema include *Waves at Genji's Door: Japan Through its Cinema* and *Voices from the Japanese Cinema*.

Gerald Figal, associate professor of history and Japanese cultural studies, Vanderbilt University, and author of *Civilization and Monsters: Spirits of Modernity in Meiji Japan*.

Moderator:

Tom Vick, film programmer, Freer and Sackler Galleries

Don't miss the remaining films in the retrospective!

FREER GALLERY OF ART

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Friday, December 7, 7 PM

Dr. Akagi
Friday, December 14, 7 PM

The Profound Desire of the Gods
Sunday, December 16, 2 PM

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Monday, December 10, 6:45 PM
Wednesday, December 12, 6:45 PM

The Pornographers
Sunday, December 9, 4:45 PM
Monday, December 10, 9:25 PM
Wednesday, December 12, 9:25 PM

Endless Desire
Friday, December 14, 9:35 PM
Sunday, December 16, 7:20 PM

The Eel
Saturday, December 22, 3 PM
Wednesday, December 26, 2:30 PM
Thursday, December 27, 9:20 PM

Warm Water Under a Red Bridge
Sunday, December 23, 1 PM
Wednesday, December 26, 9:10 PM
Thursday, December 27, 2:15 PM

This touring retrospective, co-organized by the Freer and Sackler Galleries and the Northwest Film Forum in Seattle, honors Imamura in what would have been his eightieth year.

Presentation of *A Man Vanishes: The Legacy of Shohei Imamura* at the Freer, and the production of its accompanying booklet, are generously supported by Toshiba International Foundation.

All films are in Japanese with English subtitles.

For ticketing information and film descriptions, please visit these websites:
Freer Gallery of Art: www.si.edu/films.asp
AFI Silver Theatre: www.afi.com/silver/new/

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BIG BRASS: The Blanchard-Lee collaborations stretch from 1989's "Do the Right Thing" to last year's "When the Levees Broke."

Eye of the Storm

Terence Blanchard's scores are the sound of Spike Lee's vision

MUSIC | Terence Blanchard scored Spike Lee's films such as "Clockers," "The 25th Hour" and "When

the Levees Broke," and won great acclaim for all of these soundtracks. But the talented jazz trumpeter never set out to become a film composer.

Blanchard had worked on Lee's mid-'80s work like "School Daze" and "Do the Right Thing" as a ses-

sion musician. Then Lee overheard Blanchard tinkering out a piano melody on the set of 1991's "Jungle Fever." The director liked the music and asked whether Blanchard could write a string arrangement and use it in the film.

"I just thought that he was being

nice," Blanchard said. Well, there's "nice" and there's "career-changing." Lee was impressed enough with his composition that he hired him to pen the entire score for "Jungle Fever," even though Blanchard had no prior experience composing scores.

"After I did 'Jungle Fever,' he wanted me to do 'Malcolm X.' I had a hell of lot of homework to do," Blanchard recalls. Given the gravity of the subject matter, the trumpeter studied the compositions of such revered film scores as John Williams, James Newton Howard and Elmer Bernstein. "But Spike wanted something totally different from what those guys had done. I had to formulate my own style."

And indeed, Blanchard did, and his gorgeous scores have since become signature touchstones of Lee's films. Even with all the considerable experience, he argues there isn't a set comfort zone that he can settle in to satisfy Spike's scoring needs. "Every time we do a new film, I'm stretching in some form or fashion," Blanchard says, "Spike pushes me in directions that are very different in the film scoring sense, because he likes a lot of strong melodic content. That can present technical problems sometimes when you have scenes with heavy dialogues."

Those compelling melodies however will provide plenty of improvisational and interpretive material this Saturday at the Kennedy Center's "The Movie Music of Spike Lee and Terence Blanchard." The trumpeter will front his sizzling quintet along with a chamber orchestra; guest vocalists include Dee Dee Bridgewater and Kurt Elling.

While the music plays, various images from Lee's movies will be projected behind the image. With any luck, there'll be a preview of Lee's forthcoming movie, "Miracle at Santa Anna," for which Blanchard is again writing the score.

"He's been sending me still shots for [the movie], which he's shooting in Italy," Blanchard says. "The stills look like artwork. I can't imagine what the film is going to look like. It doesn't look like anything that he's shot before. To me, Spike's a genius." **JOHN MURPH**

→ *Kennedy Center, Concert Hall, 2700 F St. NW; Sat., 8 p.m., \$20-45; 202-467-4600 (Foggy Bottom-GWU).*

Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE Light Up the Night

Didn't snag a free ticket to the Big Glow? You can still join in the Christmas tree festivities this weekend and visit the collection of trees devoted to each of the U.S. states and territories, or enjoy the model train display and musical performances.

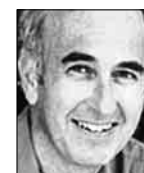
→ *The Ellipse, 1450 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; Sat.-Tues., free; 202-208-1631.*

BLACK DOLL SHOW History in Miniature

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→ *Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW; Fri., 7 p.m.-10 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., \$6; 301-649-1915. (Mt. Vernon Square)*

THE ESSAY FILM Theme and Variations



3 On Sunday, noted film writer Phillip Lopate discusses the essay film. After the lecture, Lopate will screen

Alain Resnais' "Night and Fog" and Isaac Berliner's "Nobody's Business."

→ *National Gallery of Art, 4th Street and Constitution Avenue NW; Sun., 2 p.m., free; 202-737-4215.*

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Futurists Look Back

A modern chamber ensemble celebrates Christmases past

The wind through the trees made noises as of old and unpleasant and maybe web-footed men wheezing in caves.

— “A Child’s Christmas in Wales”

MUSIC | Had Welsh poet Dylan Thomas known his paean to Christmases past would be set to orchestration by a future new-music ensemble, he might have lingered on that line a little longer. The 21st Century Consort, the Smithsonian’s new-music ensemble in residence since 1978, is hip to the sound of wind and wheezing noises.

On Saturday, the chamber orchestra will present a reading of Thomas’ holiday story set to the music of Welsh and American composers Peter Warlock, George Crumb and Paul Schoenfield. Public radio personality Martin Goldsmith narrates, and soprano Mary



‘CAN THE FISHES SEE IT’S SNOWING?’: Soprano Mary Bonhag is one of the singers on board for “A Child’s Christmas in Wales.”

Bonhag lends a voice to the proceedings.

Known for performing contemporary compositions with titles like

“Fantasy Quintet for Piano and Computer” and “Cosmic Dances for Amplified Piano, Four Hands,” the consort often couches its con-

certs within a familiar framework; sometimes to confounding effect, but always with the intention of exploring a new idea.

The acclaimed ensemble, under the helm of founder and artistic director Christopher Kendall, has for three decades largely succeeded in its efforts.

“Kendall’s genius is in putting together combinations that are unexpected and, on their face improbable, but that really work,” Consort manager Peter Robinson says.

According to Kendall, the Consort will consider works written within the last 100 years, musical or otherwise. “A Child’s Christmas in Wales” is within the borders of the past century, so I consider it fair game,” Kendall says.

In its second season at the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s Nan Tucker McEvoy Auditorium, the Consort is properly situated amid all manner of American cultural achievement.

“The auditorium is beautiful and has great clarity ... everything sounds crisp and clear,” Robinson says. “The hope is that people will not only come to hear the music, but will stick around and discover the museum as well.” **JOHN RICKMAN**

→ *Smithsonian American Art Museum, 8th & G streets NW; Sat., 4 p.m. discussion; 5 p.m. concert; \$76; 202-633-3030. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)*

Cure for the Apathetic

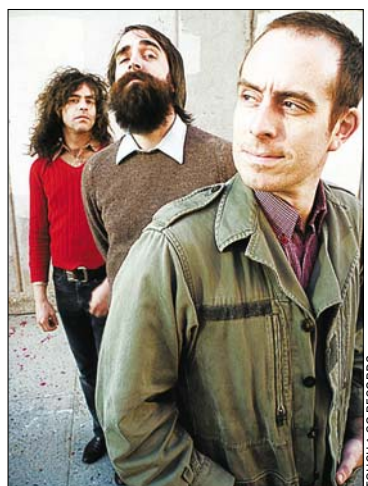
Rx for D.C.: Take two post-punk songs and riot in the morning

MUSIC | Ted Leo and the Pharmacists may be just what the doctor ordered.

The band’s pop-punk melodies deliver eminently singable tunes and political messages that make you want to grab the nearest picket sign and march on the Capitol.

The band, which Leo started almost 10 years ago in D.C. as essentially a solo project, has gone through structural as well as musical changes — from experimental reggae to Celtic rock to the politically charged tunes TL/Rx is arguably best known for.

On “Living With the Living,” the Pharmacists’ latest album, the band delivers more punk rock



Ted Leo, right, and the Pharmacists dispense politically motivated tunes.

but with a dash of soul and even some nods to metal — like on “Bomb.Repeat.Bomb.”

In general, the invective is even more powerful in “Living” than on

previous albums. Leo screams anti-war sentiments in “Annunciation Day/Born on Christmas Day”; other tracks are folksy, like “A Bottle of Buckie,” a “highly fictionalized” account of an interlude Leo had in Glasgow a decade ago.

Leo’s songs would verge on sermons if the man himself wasn’t so likeable. On his blog at tedleo.com, Leo expounds on topics political and personal, easily switching gears to advise fans (“It’s supposed to rain, so bring an umbrella.”).

But the music and the message are what’s important here, and Ted Leo and the Pharmacists’ music will make you want to tap your toes, throw up your hands and riot. **RACHEL KAUFMAN**

→ *9:30 Club, 815 V St NW; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m., \$15; 202-265-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)*

PHOTOGRAPHY | FLYBOYS



THROUGH THE FOG IT CAME: The magnificent albatross has gotten a bit of a bad rap, thanks to Samuel Coleridge, but photographer Frans Lanting restores the seabird’s reputation with “Albatross: Photographs by Fanz Lanting,” an exhibition of images of these efficient flying machines demonstrating their soaring, coasting and wing-spreading prowess.



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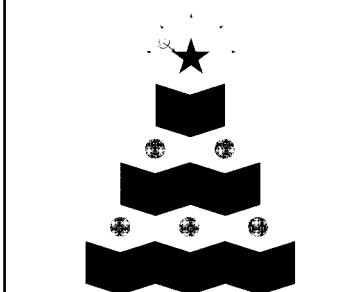
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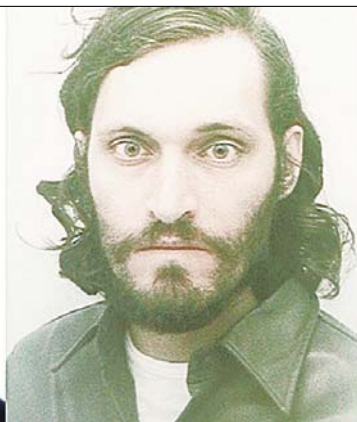
A director sets his sights on improv — of the musical kind

MUSIC | “I’m known as a quintessential provocateur,” confesses Vincent Gallo. Also as “an a -----,” according to “Buffalo 66” co-star Christina Ricci. Gallo’s polarizing career as an actor-director-painter-model-musician is littered with epithets, allegedly absurdist racist remarks, plus one notoriously unsimulated sex scene with Chloe Sevigny.

But his new band RRIICCEE — a live improvised musical collaboration with former Hole guitarist Eric Erlandson — “comes from love and from what I think is right.”

After three decades, Gallo found the traditional rock band dynamic — compose songs, rehearse to perfection, regurgitate onstage — stifling. He found Erlandson, an old acquaintance, “on the cusp of a similar thing.”

They recruited old pal Nikolas Haas. And at an L.A. street festi-



PLAY THIS FILM LOUD: Rebecca Casabian, Eric Erlandson, Vincent Gallo and Nikolas Haas make up film director Gallo’s rock ‘n’ roll side project, RRIICCEE.

val, “we got a really strong vibe from this girl Rebecca Casabian. It’s not how pretty she is, or her style, but that she’s an open person.”

Openness being a key element of RRIICCEE. The band prepares no riffs, no songs — it doesn’t even claim a genre. But Gallo distinguishes the quartet’s approach from jazz improvisation, in which “you’ve learned a scale, chord progressions, how to solo in a key. We’re remaining open to musical forms

that don’t exist yet, until we hear them making sense.” Gallo promises a cohesive result. “If we didn’t say we were improvisational, you wouldn’t know that.”

The setup onstage includes guitars, bass, 12-string, melodica, flute, keyboard, various percussion and an early sampler called a Melotron. Musically, says Gallo, “It’s different every time. You would think that not having the security of preparation would be scary, but

it’s so exciting.”

“Maybe I’m a little more controlling and bossy in ways — that’s part of the old horrible part of myself,” says Gallo. Though Gallo’s probably no competition for the likes of, say, Courtney Love on that score. But, says Gallo, RRIICCEE is about “connecting in our openness, not the old part of ourselves.”

“The concept,” says Gallo, “is to always remain very conscious. When you’re an unconscious person, you

repeat the wounded parts of yourself over and over. When you’re conscious, you invest energy in yourself and grow.

“So how does one intentionally reach that far, to make work that’s more dynamic than oneself? By avoiding cliché, by avoiding things that keep you comfortable.” **BOB MASSEY**

→ *Rock and Roll Hotel, 1353 H St. NE; Sat., 9 p.m., \$20; 202-388-7625.*

Man, Myth and Heavy Metal

3 Inches of Blood is one metal band that slays fantasy cliché

MUSIC | You know you’ve got ‘em. Around the corner, down the stairs, in the dark. You flip on the Al Gore-approved fluorescent bulb that makes your basement look like a serial killer’s lair. They scatter. But they’ll be back — soon and in force. You, pal, have an orc problem.

Time to break out the 20-sided dice and crank up the axe-swinging escapist fury of 3 Inches of Blood.

GWAR will bring the glop to the 9:30 Club on Thursday, but don’t be surprised if a lot of the head-bangers aren’t there for more jizness as usual.

“The vibe we have is almost pre-subgenre metal,” said 3 Inches guitarist Shane Clark. The band proud-



ROCK FOR LARPERS: 3 Inches of Blood is knee-deep in busting stereotypes.

ly harks back to “traditional metal, new wave of British heavy metal,” but on several counts it stands apart. For one thing, there’s the vocal onslaught of Cam Pipes and

Jamie Hooper.

“It’s just that interesting dynamic of Cam doing the high falsetto-style stuff and then Jamie doing the very abrasive, black metal-style vocals,”

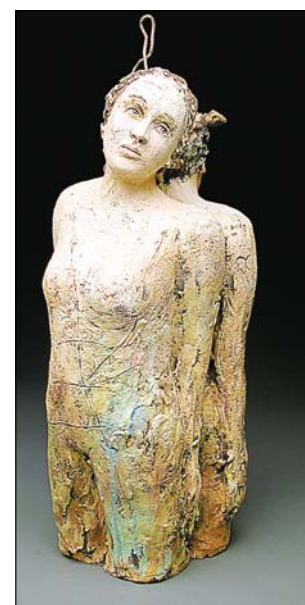
Clark said. “It’s way more apparent on the new album. There’s more separation between the two. They don’t really sing anything at the same time.”

If the blistering combination of shrunk-on-codpiece shriek and larynx-lacerating deathgargle doesn’t scorch your eardrums, the band’s pummeling virtuosity will. “Fire Up the Blades” is so precise and unrelenting you wonder if it’s all a studio illusion. Can 3 Inches possibly be that tight live?

“Probably tighter,” Clark replied. “What you hear on the album is what we sound like in the practice space, what we sound [like] onstage. At the end of the tour, we’re tighter than that even.” **GLENN DIXON**

→ *9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; with GWAR and Mensrea, Thu., \$20; 202-265-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)*

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THIS MORTAL COIL: Peanut Butter Wolf, a.k.a. Chris Manak, wanted to make music but got wrapped up in running a label.

Nothing but Net

Stones Throw launches an album, games and a tour

MUSIC | Alas, there are no actual zombies on the B-Ball Zombie War Tour, but there are MCs, a DJ and too many gamers to count.

The tour, which is co-sponsored by 2K Sports and V-Tech Phones and attacks D.C. on Thursday, features several artists from the Stones Throw Records roster, including Madlib, Percee P, Guilty Simpson, J-Rocc and Peanut Butter Wolf, a.k.a. Chris Manak.

"The show is, without sounding too cliché, really just taking it back to the essence of hip-hop," says Manak, a DJ who founded Stones Throw and continues to run the label and its imprints.

Stones Throw organized the B-Ball Zombie War Tour to promote the album of the same name, which Manak executive-produced as a loose soundtrack to the fast breaks, Hail Marys and hat tricks of 2K8 Sports video games.

According to him, 2K Sports

"really liked what we'd been doing for all these years and wanted to collaborate on something with us. On the album, they pretty much let me do whatever the hell I wanted."

The 2k Sports partnership follows successful team-ups with

"I went to college for business, but that was just because they didn't have a degree in hip-hop."

CHRIS MANAK, STONES THROW FOUNDER

Adult Swim, which produced two trippy compilations called "Chrome Children" and "Chrome Children 2," and with Urban Outfitters, which is the exclusive outlet for the Stones Throw Christmas album, "Badd Santa."

"They only have three CDs in their store, and we're one of them," Manak explains, "so we're

not fighting against thousands of releases."

Running Stones Throw has forced Manak to balance his efforts as both a businessman and a musician. "I went to college for business, but that was just because they didn't have a degree in hip-hop," he says. "When I was making music, I didn't have as many other responsibilities. It was easy just to tune out for seven, eight hours and just concentrate on the music."

For Manak, DJing "is my creative outlet nowadays," and his set on the B-Ball Zombie War Tour gives him a chance to work closely with other Stones Throw artists and indulge his musical side for a live audience.

"I just want them to leave feeling like hip-hop's not dead," he says. "A lot of our audience members are younger kids, so I want them to leave knowing there's something else in hip-hop other than what they hear on the radio." STEPHEN M. DEUSNER

→ *Black Cat*, 1811 14th St NW; Thu., 8 pm, \$20; 202-667-7960. (U St.-Cardozo)

Sitting Still as Activism

'African-American Portraits' shows the many faces of action

MUSEUMS | "Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits" is the inaugural exhibition of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

The brick-and-mortar museum doesn't exist yet, but if this show of photographs — on display at the National Portrait Gallery and drawn from the museum's collection — is any indication, the NMAAHC is going to be one impressive addition to the Smithsonian.

Anchored by the words of teacher, preacher, editor and abolitionist Henry Highland Garnet, who urged "the slaves of America" to "Let your motto be resistance!," the show illustrates various forms of the push-back over the past 150 years.

According to NMAAHC's director, Lonnie G. Bunch III, as the photographs were assembled, "it was clear that they revealed, reflected and illuminated the variety of cre-



Linda McCartney snapped a playful, painterly portrait of Jimi Hendrix.

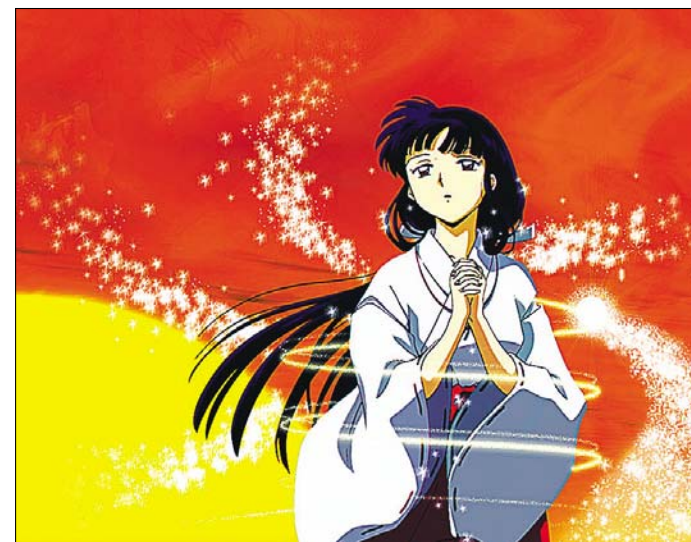
ative and courageous ways that African-Americans resisted, accommodated, redefined and struggled in an America that needed, but rarely embraced and accepted, its black citizens."

From familiar snapshots like that of Martin Luther King Jr. with his wife and daughter, to infuriating images of the scarred back of an escaped slave, each shot serves as a reminder that opposition can come either in the form of Frederick Douglass taking pen to paper or Louis Armstrong blowing his trumpet.

DARONA WILLIAMS (EXPRESS)

→ *National Portrait Gallery, 8th & F streets NW; through March 2, free; 202-633-8300. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)*

FILM | MANGA MANIA



'TOON TOWN: The D.C. Anime Club pays tribute to the "princess of Manga," writer-artist Rumiko Takahashi, with a marathon of films based on her work. Takahashi-inspired films include "Maison Ikkoku," "Ranma 1/2" and her most influential work, "Inuyasha." Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G St. NW; Sat., noon-5 p.m., free; 202-262-2083, dcanimeclub.org.

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NEOCLASSICAL: The trio have a passion for old-time, verging-on-Goth theatrics.

Old World, New Music

Rasputina puts the cello front and center on the rock stage

MUSIC | "There are no rules for creating things, so I just use whatever interests me."

That would be a pronouncement from Rasputina vocalist/songwriter/lead cellist Melora Creager, explaining — or rather not explaining — the logic behind the bizarre storyline of the three-piece's latest concept album, "Oh Perilous World."

She may have to let the music speak for itself, because the tangled tale, somehow involving the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army, the disease schistosomiasis, Mary Shelley, Hurricane Katrina and Saddam Hussein, is discursive, dark-hued and not always easy to follow.

Using two cellos and percussion, Rasputina creates rock music far more texturally and dynamically varied than most bands with guitars, bass and keyboards could ever

dream of. Creager and her bandmates use a large variety of techniques and effects on "Oh Perilous World" to create an album that is diverse but coherent. As a result, the band impressively manages to shift from gothic folk rock ("1816, The Year Without a Summer") to dance-punk ("Chose Me for Champion") to Smashing Pumpkins-esque stately alternative metal ("Draconian Crackdown") — all in the first half of the album.

Fans won't want to miss the band's sit-down show (or "recital, as Rasputina likes to call it) at the 9:30 Club this Sunday; the band's touring can be quite sporadic.

"We constantly play on our own and we do it when we want, so it's not really the 'Release the album, then go tour to promote it' sort of thing," explains Creager. And that's all you're going to get out of her. **GREG RE**

→ 9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; with the *Mathematicians*, Sun., 8:30 p.m., \$20; 800-955-5566. (U St.-Cardozo)



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Forget It, 'Two Jakes'

A noir Jack Nicholson double bill features one classic and a dud

NEO-NOIR | Early in the 1974 drama "Chinatown," Jake Gittes, the dogged L.A. private detective played by Jack Nicholson, famously tells an associate, "This business requires a certain amount of finesse." It's the beginning of a monologue that never gets delivered, as Gittes is interrupted before he can elaborate, but the point is clear. The movie has finesse to spare.

Robert Towne's script, about a convoluted murder mystery involving the Los Angeles water supply, is full of dense, slang-riddled dialogue and one of the most wicked

plot twists in cinema history.

Nicholson, long before he took only roles in which he could play variations on himself, delivers a truly memorable performance, as do Faye Dunaway as the femme fatale with the art deco face and John Huston as a supremely menacing businessman.

Most of all, Roman Polanski, filming in Los Angeles for the first time since the murder of his pregnant wife Sharon Tate and for the last time before fleeing child molestation charges, shoots 1930s Los Angeles with an eye for period architecture.

In mood and substance, "Chinatown" is film noir, but the director takes it out of the shadowy night and sets it under the unrelenting California sun.



NOIR SHADOWS IN FULL COLOR: Jack Nicholson's Jake Gittes and Faye Dunaway's Evelyn Mulwray get close in Robert Towne's classic 1974 film "Chinatown."

According to the new documentaries on these DVD reissues, Towne originally conceived "China-

town" as part of a trilogy depicting enormous changes in Los Angeles over three decades.

Due to Polanski's exile and conflicts between Towne, Nicholson and producer Robert Evans, the series stalled until 1990, when Nicholson directed a second installment, "The Two Jakes," which delves into the real estate and oil industries.

No sequel could possibly live up to "Chinatown," but "The Two Jakes" has almost no finesse. As an actor, Nicholson turns Gittes into a middle-aged bore, and as a director, he mimics many of Polanski's famous shots but cannot conjure his narrative élan. Instead, the movie indulges in far too many talky scenes and fancy sets, as if the original appeal of "Chinatown" was only shiny cars and snappy suits.

"Chinatown" stands better on its own, as a closed story and as a singular film. Its insistence that water management determined the development of Los Angeles still plays out as wildfires savage Southern California regularly.

STEPHEN M. DEUSNER

Take 10

THE WASHINGTON POST'S FILM CRITICS TACKLE THIS WEEK'S BOX-OFFICE TOP 10

1 | Enchanted

Disney performs a neat trick of satiric jujitsu with this charming family comedy that celebrates the princess cult it invented while skewering its most saccharin conventions. ANN HORNADAY

2 | This Christmas

In "This Christmas," all the children come home to roost—and so do the chickens. The film doesn't idealize, and that makes it ideal. STEPHEN HUNTER

3 | Beowulf

Director Robert Zemeckis uses motion-capture to conjure fantastical things. But what he hasn't mastered is emotion capture. STEPHEN HUNTER

4 | Awake

Awake takes the remote possibility that one might awaken during surgery and puts it in the center of a clever conspiracy. STEPHEN HUNTER

5 | Hitman

Think of bargain-basement "James Bond" amped up video game-style,



NOW IT'S OUT: The family gathers for a secret-spilling holiday in "This Christmas."

into TV den-sittin', mouse-clickin' overdrive. But with human actors. DESSON THOMSON

6 | Fred Claus

Vince Vaughn spends most of his time as a bitter creep, brother to Paul Giamatti's Santa. STEPHEN HUNTER

7 | August Rush

Intended as a fuzzy family fable, "August" plays more to the gag reflex than to the heart. DESSON THOMSON

8 | No Country for Old Men

This high-end literary thriller, derived from an ultra-violent Cormac

McCarthy novel, traffics as much in ideas as in thrills, sometimes to its own detriment. STEPHEN HUNTER

9 | Bee Movie

Adults and children could do worse than to enjoy some chortles during this computer-animated movie with the voice of Jerry Seinfeld as a wise-cracking insect. DESSON THOMSON

10 | American Gangster

Whether it's the next great American crime movie or this year's professional stunner will be determined over time. For now, it's enough to say the story is relentlessly told. STEPHEN HUNTER

Indies&Arties

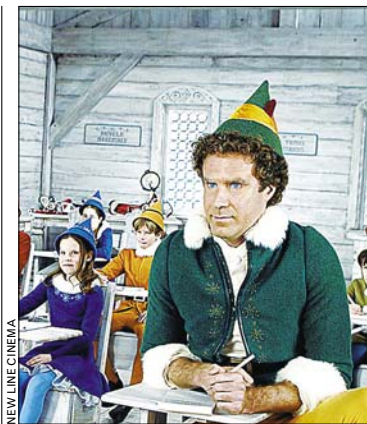
Spotting a Whale

James Whale was best known for his elegant monster film "Frankenstein," but the English director was adept in many genres, including the sophisticated drama of "One More River." This 1934 jewel follows the tribulations and, literally, the trial of a woman who frees herself from an abusive husband but is trapped by Draconian British divorce laws. The trial sequence that forms the film's centerpiece is a master class in suspense and style.

→ CAPITOL HILL ARTS WORKSHOP, 545 7TH ST. SE; SAT., 7 P.M., \$5; 202-547-6839, FILMSONTHEHILL.COM.

Holiday Marathon

The Arlington Cinema 'N' Drafthouse has lined up six high-quality Xmas flicks to screen over the course of one day. Animated specials "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" will screen, along with more grown-up fare including "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," "Elf," "It's a Wonderful Life" and, of course, "A Christmas Story." The Drafthouse menu will be available all day, and there'll be a gingerbread house event and an appear-



Will Ferrell stars in the Christmas comedy "Elf," part of a seasonal marathon.

ance by a certain jolly old elf in a red suit.

→ ARLINGTON CINEMA 'N' DRAFTHOUSE, 2903 COLUMBIA PIKE, ARLINGTON; SUN., 11:45 A.M.-9 P.M., \$7; 703-486-2345.

Pirates of Love

There's adventure on the high seas this weekend as two films starring the manliest movie star ever to wear tights screen. On Thursday, Errol Flynn stars as the dashing "Captain Blood"; on Friday, he mans "The Sea Hawk." Both films begin at 7 p.m. and will make you want to either grow a small mustache or date a man who has one.

→ LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, 101 INDEPENDENCE AVE. SE; THU. & FRI., 7 P.M., FREE; 202-707-5677.

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Big D and The Kids Table

w/ Whole Wheat Bread & Brain Failure W 12

Carbon Leaf w/ Tom McCormack *This is a seated show!* Th 13

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Bone Thugs-n-Harmony W 26

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Blonde Redhead w/ School of Seven Bells W 16

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The Scene

Sound

→ THURSDAY

Apex: "College Night," DJ Randy White, VJ Steve Rosa, 9 p.m., \$5, free with college ID.

Bangkok Blues: Whale Etouffe (CD release), 7:30 p.m., \$5-\$10.

Birchmere: Moya Brennan "The Voice of Clannad," 7:30 p.m., \$25.

Black Cat: Madlib, Peanut Butter Wolf, J.Rocc, Percee P, 8 p.m., \$20 (\$18 in advance).

Blues Alley: Stacey Kent, 8 & 10 p.m., \$27.50.

Bohemian Caverns: Sound of the City, 9 p.m., free.

Café Saint-Ex: "Tinderbox" with DJ Lil E, 10 p.m., free.

Crossroads: "Jamaica Me Crazy Happy Hour," live reggae, ladies free before 11 p.m. with pass from crossroadsclub.com.

DC9: Gore Gore Girls, the Highballers, the Droptops, 8:30 p.m., \$10.

Eighteenth Street Lounge: Dust Galaxy, see eslmusic.com.

Iota: Kelly Joe Phelps, Gregory Alan Isakov, 9 p.m., \$15.

Jammin' Java: Chelsea Lee, Scott Simons, 7:30 p.m., \$10.

Kennedy Center: One Ring Zero, 6 p.m., free. NPR's A Jazz Piano Christmas, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., \$35. WPAS: The Philadelphia Orchestra, 8 p.m., \$40-\$95.

Mirrors: "Phat Thursdays," 9 p.m., \$10 for men, ladies free.

9:30 Club: GWAR, 3 Inches of Blood, Mensrea, 7 p.m., \$20.

The Red & the Black: Michelle Burleson, the Ian Walters Project, Soul in the Shade, 9 p.m., \$8.

Rock and Roll Hotel: "Trailer Trash Night," with DJ Chris Price, 8 p.m., free.

State Theatre: Dirty Dozen Brass Band, the Felice Brothers, 7 p.m., \$13.

Twins Jazz: Daniela Schaechter, 8 p.m., \$10-\$30.

Velvet Lounge: Holy Attack, Paperhouse, Gestures, 9 p.m., \$10.

Zanzibar: Familiar Faces, 7 p.m., see zanzibar-otw.com.

→ FRIDAY

Apex: "Ultimate Dance Party," 9 p.m., \$9.

Bangkok Blues: Beltway Rockers, 7 p.m. Hey Norton, 9:30 p.m., \$5-\$10.

Black Cat: The Detroit Cobras, the Ambitions, Pessimist Parade, 9 p.m., \$15 (\$13 in advance). "Sorted," Britpop, soul, indie

DANCE | WE ARE FAMILY



THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU MOST: This holiday season, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange celebrates family in all its guises — alt, nuclear, adoptive, gay, divorced, whatever. "Gumdrops and the Funny Uncle" at the Round House Theatre in Silver Spring is a kid-friendly multimedia performance piece involving dance, video, shadow puppets and storytelling.

pop with DJ Stereo Faith, 9:30 p.m., \$5 (backstage).

Blues Alley: Stacey Kent, 8 & 10 p.m., \$27.50.

Bohemian Caverns: Leonard Brown & Joyful Noise: Holiday Celebration, 9 & 11 p.m., \$15.

Café Saint-Ex: Sharkey, 10 p.m., free.

Crossroads: Escape Friday Happy Hour & Dance Party with Kurt Riley, 5 p.m., \$20, ladies free before 11 p.m. with pass from crossroadsclub.com.

DC9: "Liberation Dance Party," with the Jaguar Club, 9 p.m., \$6.

GMU, Center for the Arts: The King's Singers presents Joy to the World, 8 p.m., \$23-\$46.

Iota: Honor by August, the Influence, Joey Degraw, 9:30 p.m., \$10.

Jammin' Java: The Dog Waggers, 7 p.m., \$10. Shane Hines and the Trance, Fools and Horses, 9:30 p.m., \$12.

Jaxx: The Showdown, Madison Apart, Gal-lows Hill, Three Fold Trust, Purgatory,

7 p.m., \$14 (\$12 in advance).

Kennedy Center: Pirai Vaca, 6 p.m., free. WPAS: Kathleen Battle, Joel Martin, 8 p.m., \$25-\$85.

Mirrors: Lissen Band, 7 p.m., \$20 for men, ladies free before 8 p.m., \$15 after.

9:30 Club: Ted Leo and the Pharmacists, Kristeen Young, Partyline, 7 p.m., \$15.

The Red & the Black: Practically Einstein, Gaslight Society, Hivemind, North of Canada, 9 p.m., \$8.

Residence of the Indonesian Ambassador: Djuliarso, James King, Lenny Robinson, 7:30 p.m., \$60.

Rock and Roll Hotel: Hot Rod Circuit, Olympia, Pictures in Pieces, Plane and Pilot, 7:30 p.m., \$12 (\$10 in advance). "Disco City," 9:30 p.m., free.

State Theatre: The Speaks, Crash Boom Bang, Numa, 3StarKarma, 7 p.m., \$12 (\$10 in advance).

Strathmore: Washington Bach Consort: Christmas Oratorio, 8 p.m., \$21-\$55.

Twins Jazz: Michael Thomas,

9 & 11 p.m., \$20.

Velvet Lounge: Parachute Musical, Prabir & the Substitutes, Must Love Trash, 9 p.m., \$10.

Zanzibar: Fresh Fete Fridays, 9 p.m., see zanzibar-otw.com.

→ SATURDAY

Apex: Kristina Kelly and the Girls of Glamour, DJ Joey-O, VJ Steve Rosa, 9 p.m., \$9.

Bangkok Blues: Curbfeelers, 7 p.m. Johnny and the Stingrays, 10 p.m., \$5-\$10.

Birchmere: The Roches, Lucy Wainwright Roche, 7:30 p.m., \$29.50.

Black Cat: "Mousetrap," Britpop dance night, 9:30 p.m., \$10. "The Soulf**k," '60s and '70s soul with Soul Call Paul, Mad Squirrel, 9:30 p.m., free (backstage).

Blues Alley: Stacey Kent, 8 & 10 p.m., \$27.50.

Bohemian Caverns: Leonard Brown & Joyful Noise: Holiday Celebration, 9 &

11 p.m., \$15.

Café Saint-Ex: DJ Will Eastman, 10 p.m., free.

Constitution Hall: United States Army Band, Louise Mandrell, 3 & 8 p.m., free.

Crossroads: "Energy Saturday," 5 p.m., \$20, ladies free before 11 p.m. with pass from crossroadsclub.com.

DC9: "Transatlantic Dance Party," with DJ People's Champion, 9 p.m., \$8.

Fur: "Turn the Tables on Global Warming," with BT, Graffiti, Leama, James Davis, DJ Monk, 10 p.m., \$25.

Iota: Gandalf Murphy and the Slambovian Circus of Dreams, 7 p.m., \$15. Laura Tsagaris, 9:30 p.m., \$10.

Jammin' Java: Pull the Pin, Arden, I Saw a Ghost, 12 p.m., \$8.

Jaxx: Shooting Star's Rock Shock with Monster Madhouse, Sordid, Eden Burns, Reticle, Remember the City, As the Kingdom Falls, Scratch Addict, Last Man, Guerrilla Labs, World Class Defects, Switch56, 2 p.m., \$12 (\$10 in advance).

Kennedy Center: Salón México, 6 p.m., free. The Movie Music of Spike Lee and Terence Blanchard, 8 p.m., \$20-\$45.

9:30 Club: Ted Leo and the Pharmacists, Kristeen Young, Ris Paul Ric, 7 p.m., \$15.

The Red & the Black: The Wax Standard, the London Souls, Feinwood, 9 p.m., \$8.

Rock and Roll Hotel: RRIICCEE, 8 p.m., \$20. "Pow Wow," garage rock, psych, '70s punk, 8:30 p.m., free.

Strathmore: BSO: Handel's Messiah, 8 p.m., \$21-\$84.

Twins Jazz: Michael Thomas, 9 & 11 p.m., \$20.

Velvet Lounge: Red Ink, Hello Tokyo, Frustrations, Motel Creeps, Blackout DJs, 9 p.m., \$10.

Zanzibar: "Reggae on the Waterfront," free before 9 p.m.

→ SUNDAY

Bangkok Blues: DC Blues Society and Rick Franklin, 4 p.m. Blues Jam with Mark Mandel, 7:30 p.m., \$5-\$10.

Continued on E23

venues

Apex: 1415 22nd St. NW; 202-296-0505.

Bangkok Blues: 926 W. Broad St., Falls Church; 703-534-0095.

Be Bar: 1318 9th St. NW; 202-232-7450.

Birchmere Music Hall: 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 703-549-7500.

Black Cat: 1811 14th St. NW; 202-667-7960.

Blues Alley: 1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-337-4141.

Bohemian Caverns: 2001 11th St. NW; 202-299-0800.

Café Saint-Ex: 1847 14th St. NW; 202-265-7839.

Crossroads: 4103 Baltimore Ave., Bladensburg, Md.; 301-927-1056.

DC9: 1940 9th St. NW; 202-483-5000.

Eighteenth Street Lounge: 1849 Calvert St. NW; 202-466-3922.

Fur: 33 Patterson St. NE; 703-438-6095.

George Mason University Center for the Arts: Braddock Road & Route 123, Fairfax; 703-993-2787.

Iota Club & Café: 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-522-8340.

Jammin' Java: 227 Maple Ave., Vienna; 703-255-1566.

Jaxx: 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield; 703-569-5940.

La Maison Française: 4101 Reservoir Road NW; 202-944-6090.

Kennedy Center: 2700 F St. NW; 800-444-1324.

The Lyceum: 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria; 703-549-0760.

Mirrors: 33 New York Ave. NE; 202-326-0774.

9:30 Club: 815 V St. NW; 202-393-0930.

The Red & the Black: 1212 H St. NE; 202-399-3201.

Residence of the Indonesian Ambassador: 2700 Tilden St. NW; 202-

625-2361.

Rock and Roll Hotel: 1353 H St. NE; 202-388-7625.

State Theatre: 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church; 703-237-4508.

Strathmore Music Center: 5301 Tuckerman Lane, Bethesda; 301-581-5100.

Twins Jazz: 1344 U St. NW; 202-234-0072.

Velvet Lounge: 915 U St. NW; 202-462-3213.

Wolf Trap: 1645 Trap Road, Vienna; 703-255-1868.

Zanzibar: 700 Water St. SW; 202-554-9100.

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FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS AMC Mazza Gallerie 7	BOWIE Regal Cinemas Bowie Stadium 14	LARGO AMC Magic Johnson Capital Centre 12	ALEXANDRIA Regal Potomac Yard Stadium 16	MERRIFIELD Nat'l Amusements Arlington Blvd/Lee Hwy Multiplex Cinemas
GALLERY PLACE/ CHINATOWN Regal Gallery Place Stadium 14	BELTSVILLE AMC Loews Center Park 8	MARLOW HEIGHTS Marlow 6 Theatres	ARLINGTON Regal Cinemas Commons Stadium 12	RESTON Nat'l Amusements Reston Town Center Multiplex Cinemas
GEORGETOWN AMC Loews Georgetown 14	COLUMBIA AMC Columbia 14	ROCKVILLE Regal Cinemas Rockville Stadium 13	ASHBURN Consolidated Fox Cinemas	SPRINGFIELD AMC Springfield Mall 10
BETHESDA AMC Loews White Flint 5	GAITHERSBURG Kentlands Stadium 10	SILVER SPRING Consolidated Majestic 20	CENTREVILLE Nat'l Amusements Centerville Multiplex Cinemas	STERLING Regal Cinemas Countrywide Stadium 20
MARYLAND	GAITHERSBURG AMC Loews Rio 18	WALDORF AMC Loews St. Charles Towne Ctr. 9	FAIRFAX Tysons Corner 16	WOODBIDGE AMC Potomac Mills 18
BETHESDA P&G Westfield Montgomery	GERMANTOWN Regal Cinemas Germantown Stadium 14	WHEATON P&G Wheaton Plaza 11	FAIRFAX Nat'l Amusements Fairfax Corner 14; Cinemas De Lux	
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OC: ENCHANTED (PG) (415) 940
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (110) 420 710 1020
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (120) 435 735 1030
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1205 230) 520 800 1015
ENCHANTED (PG) (1240) 700
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (130 440) 745
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) (1220 245) 510 750
FRED CLAU (PG) (1145 225)
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (140) 530 920
BEE MOVIE (PG) (1215 235) 450 705 925
GONE BABY GONE (R) - ID REQ'D (1245) 410 725 1005
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) - ID REQ'D (500) 740 1025

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12

Glebe Rd, Arlington 800-FANDANGO 377#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 310 530) 800 1020
ENCHANTED (PG) (115 145 400 430) 640 710 925 955
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (220 455) 750 1035
BEOWULF (PG-13) (105 355) 645 935
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) (125 350) 630 855
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (130 420) 720 1010
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (230) 700 1030
BEE MOVIE (PG) (135 410) 650 920
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) (300 535) 810 1040
BELLA (PG-13) (210 455) 730 1010
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 335) 625 915

BOWIE STADIUM 14

15200 Major Lansdale Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (115 330 545) 800 1015
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (100 145 245 345 430 530) 630 730 815
ENCHANTED (PG) (930 1015 1100
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (200 300 430 530) 700 800 945 1030
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (145 415) 645 915
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (215 500) 745 1045
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (100 330) 750
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) (100 415) 730 1000
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (345) 715 1020
BEE MOVIE (PG) (215 445) 715 930
TYLER PERRY'S: WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (PG-13) (500) 745
FRED CLAU (PG) (230) PM

BETHESDA 10

7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (115 330 545) 815 1030
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (230 500) 745 1025
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (100 345) 730 1020
ENCHANTED (PG) (1230 300 530) 800 1030
BEOWULF (PG-13) (220 445) 745 1020
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) (1230 245 500) 715
FRED CLAU (PG) (115 425) 700 940
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 350) 715 1030
BEE MOVIE (PG) (145 400) 630 845
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) (210 450) 730 950

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16

3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (110 155 405 450) 700 745 955
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (135 425) 710
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (250 510) 730 950
OC: ENCHANTED (PG) (415) 940
ENCHANTED (PG) (100 330 345) 625 655 910
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (115 400) 645 935
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (200 500) 810
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (215 440) 705 930
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) - ID REQ'D (1245) PM
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) (145 410) 635 900
FRED CLAU (PG) (1250 340) 640 920
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (100 430) 800
BEE MOVIE (PG) (120 350) 620 845
GONE BABY GONE (R) - ID REQ'D (220 505) 750 1035
TYLER PERRY'S: WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (PG-13) (125 420)
715 1010
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) - ID REQ'D (355) 650 945

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20

45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (1200 300
550) 840
BEOWULF (PG-13) (100 350) 640 940
OC: ENCHANTED (PG) (240) 820
ENCHANTED (PG) (1150 1240 330 530) 620 920
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (210 500) 745 1040
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (220 500) 740 1020
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (150 440) 730 1025
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 230 510) 750 1020
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 340) 700 1010
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) - ID REQ'D (215 445) 715 950
GONE BABY GONE (R) - ID REQ'D (200 450) 740 1015
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) (115 345) 615 910
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) - ID REQ'D (1210) 945
BEE MOVIE (PG) (145 420) 645 915
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 310) 635 940
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) (1215 250 520) 800 1030
BELLA (PG-13) (120 400) 625 850
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) - ID REQ'D (315) 650

ROCKVILLE CENTER STADIUM 13

Rockville Town Center 800-FANDANGO 248#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 300 530) 800 1025
ENCHANTED (PG) (100 200 345 445) 630 730 930 1015
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (100 400) 700 1000
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (115 415) 715 1005
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (115 415) 715 1015
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 315 545) 815 1030
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (215 500) 745
1035
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) (145 430) 700 945
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (130 515) 845
BEE MOVIE (PG) (130 400) 645 915
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) (215 445) 730 950
FRED CLAU (PG) (215 500) 745 1030

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10

4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
ENCHANTED - DP (PG) (100 340) 630 910
ENCHANTED (PG) (130 200 410 440) 700 730 940 1010
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (110 140 400 430) 650
720 945 1015
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (250) 620 950
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (150 450) 715 930
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (120 420) 710 1005
GONE BABY GONE (R) - ID REQ'D (115 350) 645 920
INTO THE WILD (R) - ID REQ'D (300) 640 1000

GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14

20000 Century Blvd 800-FANDANGO 455#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 230 445) 730 1000
GONE BABY GONE (R) - ID REQ'D (130 440) 800 1030
ENCHANTED (PG) (1200 140 240 515) 700 745 1030
OC: ENCHANTED (PG) (420) 940
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (1245 415) 715 1015
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 220 500) 810 1020
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (115 415) 715 1010
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (130 430) 730 1030
BEOWULF (PG-13) (100 445) 745 1020
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) (1155 215 430) 700
945

FRED CLAU (PG) (1230 330) 645 930
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 320) 650 1010
BEE MOVIE (PG) (1150 210 420) 645 930
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) (210 450) 800 1015

UA SNOWDEN SQ STADIUM 14

9161 Commerce Ctr Dr 800-FANDANGO 570#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (215 500) 800 1030
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (100 400) 700 950
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (130) 715
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (215 515) 800 1030
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (145 430) 730 1005
ENCHANTED (PG) (100 200 345 445) 630 730 915 1015
BEOWULF (PG-13) (145 430) 745 1025
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) (1245 330) 645 930
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) - ID REQ'D (115 400) 700 950
FRED CLAU (PG) (130 415) 715 1000
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (115 445) 815
BEE MOVIE (PG) (1245 345) 645 930
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) (200) 745
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) - ID REQ'D (500) 1020
OC: THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (415) 1015

MANASSAS STADIUM 14

11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

Adv. Tix on Sale THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale HANNAH MONTANA CONCERT 3D (NR) ★
AWAKE (R) - ID REQ'D (1155 210 430) 740 1000
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13) (1240 330) 700 945
THE MIST (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 335) 640 930
HITMAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 245 505) 750 1010
AUGUST RUSH (PG) (105 355) 705 1005
ENCHANTED (PG) (1150 1220 100 230 305 340 500) 645 715 745
925 955 1020
BEOWULF DIGITAL 3D - \$2.50 FEE FOR 3D (PG-13) (215 500) 745
1035
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) (1215 240 455) 735
1010
FRED CLAU (PG) (1250 400) 725 1015
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 300) 635 950
BEE MOVIE (PG) (1210 225 440) 720 935
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) (1200 220 445) 725 1005

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• Exhibitors from over 15 states with Black Memorabilia, Art and Dolls for sale including historical artifacts, books, autographs, stamps, advertisements, toys, paintings, prints, kitchen collectibles, jewelry, textiles, coins, political, sports and entertainment memorabilia, postcards and much more.

• Slavery Artifacts, Jim Crow memorabilia, Black Panther Party, Buffalo Soldiers, African American Inventors and other Educational Exhibits.

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BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM **7:30**
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R)
1:15, 2:15, 4:15, 5:15, 7:15, 8:30, 9:45
I'M NOT THERE (R)
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:35
MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (R)
12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
INTO THE WILD (R)
1:45, 5:00, 8:15
THE DARJEELING LIMITED (R)
1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:55
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40
LARS & THE REAL GIRL (PG-13)
4:00
BEFORE THE DEVIL
KNOWS YOUR DEAD (R)
1:10

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY
7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth 301-767-9555
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!

ENCHANTED (PG)
3:00, 5:15, 7:35
MR. MAGORIUM'S
WONDER EMPORIUM (G)
3:15, 5:20, 7:30
BEE MOVIE (PG)
3:05, 5:05, 7:15

P&G OLD GREENBELT 301-474-9744
40 ft. Screen
At intersection of Crescent & Southway
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R)
5:00, 7:30

P&G WHEATON 11 **7:30**
Westfield Wheaton Mall 301-949-9201
301-949-9201 (!) denotes no passes
All shows before 6pm \$6.00
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VIRGINIA

CINEMA ARTS THEATRE **7:30**
9650 Main St., Fairfax 703-978-6991
www.cinemaartstheatre.com
BELLA (PG-13)
10:00am, 12:10, 4:40, 7:30
I'M NOT THERE (R)
10:05am, 12:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:40
MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (R)
10:15am, 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:20
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R)
9:45am, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R)
9:50am, 12:05, 2:25, 4:55, 7:50, 10:05
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R)
10:10am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 9:45
BEFORE THE DEVIL
KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (R)
2:15 9:30

DISTRICT

LANDMARK'S

**E street
CINEMA**

E St. at 11th St. NW • (202) 452-7672
Moviephone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #781

BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM **7:30**
THE LIFE OF REILLY (NR)
1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R)
1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45
LARS AND THE REAL GIRL (PG-13)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:35
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R)
12:40, 3:40, 9:30
MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (R)
1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:55
BEFORE THE DEVIL
KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (R)
12:55, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55
I'M NOT THERE (R)
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40

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AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22
Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria
703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL 3D
BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 2:10, 5:10, 8:00, 10:40
AWAKE (R) ✓ 1:05, 3:35, 5:55, 8:30, 10:45
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 2:00, 4:35, 7:30, 10:10
ENCHANTED (PG) 2:00, 3:20, 4:00, 5:00, 6:20, 7:20, 8:20, 9:00, 10:00, 10:45
HITMAN (R) 1:50, 3:00, 4:20, 7:00, 8:50, 9:50
THE MIST (R) 2:45, 5:45, 8:45
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 1:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:00, 4:40, 5:40, 6:40, 7:40, 8:40, 9:40, 10:25
BEOWULF (PG13) 3:45, 6:30, 9:30
BEOWULF (PG13) 3:45, 6:30, 9:30
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 1:10, 2:30, 3:50, 5:20, 8:10, 10:30
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 1:10, 2:30, 3:50, 5:20, 8:10, 10:30
FRED CLAUD (PG) 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 2:05, 4:30, 7:05, 9:35
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 2:50, 6:50, 7:50, 10:15
BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:00, 2:20, 3:15, 4:50, 5:30, 7:10, 9:45
SAW IV (R) 7:15, 9:55
TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (PG13) 2:35, 5:55

AMC SELECT
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:55, 4:45, 7:45, 10:35
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) 5:35

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8
Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

HITMAN (R) 4:50, 7:10
THE MIST (R) 5:00, 7:50
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 5:20, 8:00
FRED CLAUD (PG) 4:00, 6:30
ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE (PG13) 5:10, 7:40

AMC SELECT
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) 4:30, 7:30
THE DARJEELING LIMITED (R) 4:40, 7:00
GONE BABY GONE (R) 5:25, 8:10

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12
800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:20, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
ENCHANTED (PG) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
HITMAN (R) 12:25, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10
THE MIST (R) 12:55, 3:55, 6:55, 9:55
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:20
BEOWULF (PG13) 1:15, 4:35, 7:35, 10:15
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 12:40, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:15
FRED CLAUD (PG) 1:25, 4:05, 7:00, 9:35
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 2:05, 6:05, 9:25
BEE MOVIE (PG) 12:35, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:05
TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (PG13) 1:35, 4:25, 7:25, 10:05

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

I'M NOT THERE (R) 2:10, 5:10, 8:00

AMC SELECT
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:40, 2:20, 4:10, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30
SOUTHLAND TALES (R) 2:00, 4:50, 7:40
BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:20
LARS AND THE REAL GIRL (PG13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:10
INTO THE WILD (R) 1:50, 4:40, 7:50

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5
North Bethesda
1-800-FANDANGO #741

ENCHANTED (PG) 1:40, 4:15, 7:00
FRED CLAUD (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 7:10
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 1:50, 4:25, 7:15
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 2:30, 6:30
BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:55, 4:05, 7:05

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14
10300 Patuxent Parkway
703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL 3D
BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:55, 4:30, 7:10, 9:55
AWAKE (R) 1:05, 3:25, 5:40, 7:50, 10:05
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
ENCHANTED (PG) 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
HITMAN (R) 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:45
THE MIST (R) 12:45, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
BEOWULF (PG13) 12:55, 3:30, 6:10, 8:55
BEOWULF (PG13) 12:55, 3:30, 6:10, 8:55
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 1:50, 4:15, 6:35, 9:00
FRED CLAUD (PG) 1:15, 4:00, 6:40, 9:25
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 2:45, 6:15, 9:35
BEE MOVIE (PG) 2:50, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG13) 1:40, 6:50
TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (PG13) 4:05, 9:10

AMC SELECT
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 12:50, 3:35, 6:20, 9:05

AMC SPRINGFIELD MALL 10
Loisdale and Franconia Road
703-971-3991

AUGUST RUSH (PG) 4:20, 7:20
ENCHANTED (PG) 1:15, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
HITMAN (R) 5:15, 8:00
THE MIST (R) 1:30, 4:45, 7:45
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15
BEOWULF (PG13) 4:10, 7:15
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 5:15, 7:30
FRED CLAUD (PG) 4:00, 7:00
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 3:45, 7:10
BEE MOVIE (PG) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18
9811 Washingtonian Boulevard
301-948-0906

DIGITAL 3D
BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
AWAKE (R) ✓ 2:25, 5:20, 7:55, 10:10
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25
ENCHANTED (PG) 1:30, 2:45, 4:10, 5:25, 7:00, 8:00, 9:35, 10:35
HITMAN (R) 2:30, 4:55, 7:25, 10:05
THE MIST (R) 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:35
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25
BEOWULF (PG13) 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:10
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 9:50
FRED CLAUD (PG) 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 2:20, 5:50, 7:05, 10:20, 10:30
BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:20, 2:40, 4:00, 5:10, 7:35, 9:55
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG13) 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 8:00, 10:20

AMC SELECT
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) 12:50, 4:05, 7:10, 10:15

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14
3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

DIGITAL 3D
BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
AWAKE (R) ✓ 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:25
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
ENCHANTED (PG) 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55
HITMAN (R) 2:10, 4:25, 6:50, 9:20
HITMAN (R) 2:10, 4:25, 6:50, 9:20
I'M NOT THERE (R) 1:05, 10:25
THE MIST (R) 1:55, 4:55, 7:50, 10:30
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:30
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 2:35, 5:00, 7:25
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 8:10, 10:20
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 3:25, 6:55, 10:15
BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:55, 4:30, 10:00
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) 2:30, 5:20, 9:40

AMC SELECT
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 2:00, 4:50, 7:45, 10:20
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) 3:40, 6:45, 10:05

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

DIGITAL 3D
BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 3:30, 6:25, 9:30
AWAKE (R) ✓ 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
AWAKE (R) 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55
ENCHANTED (PG) 1:25, 2:15, 4:05, 5:00, 6:45, 7:40, 9:25, 10:10
HITMAN (R) 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45
THE MIST (R) 1:10, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 1:20, 3:35, 4:30, 6:35, 7:25, 9:20, 10:10
BEOWULF (PG13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:25, 10:05
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 1:50, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15
FRED CLAUD (PG) 1:15, 2:10, 4:10, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 2:05, 7:00
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 2:40, 6:10, 8:00, 9:40
BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:00, 2:00, 3:15, 4:20, 5:30, 6:40, 9:00
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG13) 4:35, 9:35
TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (PG13) 7:05, 9:50

AMC SELECT
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:05, 4:00, 6:55, 9:55

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16
7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

DIGITAL 3D
BEOWULF: DIGITAL 3D (PG13) 2:45, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45
AWAKE (R) 1:05, 3:20, 5:50, 8:15, 10:25
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
AUGUST RUSH (PG) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
ENCHANTED (PG) 1:30, 2:40, 4:05, 5:20, 7:05, 8:00, 9:35, 10:35
HITMAN (R) 1:45, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
THE MIST (R) 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:20
BEOWULF (PG13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40
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FRED CLAUD (PG) 1:50, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 1:25, 7:05
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 1:35, 5:00, 8:30
BEE MOVIE (PG) 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25
DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG13) 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:20, 10:40

AMC SELECT
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) 1:35, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) 3:45, 9:20

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE
Jennifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

ENCHANTED (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15
THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 2:10, 4:50, 7:40
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) 2:40, 5:10, 7:25
LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) 2:20, 4:40, 7:30
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 3:30, 7:00
BEE MOVIE (PG) 2:00, 4:10
MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) 1:50, 4:35, 7:10

LOEWS DUPONT 5
1350 19th St.
1-800-FANDANGO #711

AUGUST RUSH (PG) 4:15, 7:15
AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) 3:45, 7:00

AMC SELECT
WAR/DANCE (PG13) 4:45, 7:45
THE DARJEELING LIMITED (R) 4:30, 7:30
INTO THE WILD (R) 3:30, 6:45

LOEWS UPTOWN 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713

BEOWULF (PG13) 2:30, 5:15, 8:00

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Times for Thursday, December 6, 2007

THURSDAY | 12.06.2007 | EXPRESS | 19



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XX141c 5x2

Dining | WeekendPass

Eating Around

ECO-CUISINE

Conscious Cooking

Takeout goes organic at the new U Street-area Chix, which features three versions of rotisserie chicken, soups and an array of sides. The birds — supplied by Freebird Farms in Lancaster, Pa. — are dressed in Peruvian, Columbian or Chix's own marinade concocted by co-owner Victoria Garcia's Spanish-born father, a chef.

Be sure to try the zesty chick-pea salad, black beans with cumin and orange, or the vermicelli noodle mac and cheese. Feeling under the weather? House-made chicken soup might bring you back to health.

(MELISSA MCCART)

→ *Chix*, 2019 11th St. NW; 202-234-2449. (U St.-Cardozo)

LET IT POUR

An 'Affaire' to Remember

From 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, the French Wine Society sponsors the "French Wine Affaire" at the French Embassy, where tables



ELBOW ROOM: Black Salt celebrates the opening of its tasting and wine rooms.

will be set up by importers, featuring wines from across the country. One hundred or more wines will be available for sale or display. (MM)

→ *Embassy of France*, 4101 Reservoir Road NW; \$69 for non-members; 202-466-0808, frenchwinesociety.org.

ROOMIER

Black Salt's Growth Spurt

Monday through Saturday this month only, Black Salt celebrates its new tasting and wine rooms with a \$20.07 three-course lunch featuring Maine lobster agnolotti with a lobster mushroom fondue, frisee

and a Mediterranean bronzino in a saffron-smoked mussel broth, among other selections.

The wine room is a refrigerated walk-through linking the dining and tasting rooms with 450 bottles on display. The intimate new tasting room is adorned in rich, dark wood and features a fireplace — perfect for the season. (MM)

→ *Black Salt*, 4883 MacArthur Blvd. NW; 202-342-9101.

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The Front Page

VOL. 1



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WeekendPass



MASTER OF HIS CRAFT: Thrasher is known for the care he uses to make a drink.

Warm Up With Ice

Todd Thrasher makes two chilly cocktails to ward off the weather

LIBATIONS | To watch Todd Thrasher of Restaurant Eve and PX make a drink cultivates a sense of possibility — whatever he's making will be intensely relaxing and surprisingly delightful, whether it's minimalist liquor on the rocks or a multi-ingredient cocktail.

As he begins, Thrasher unveils his gear from a travel tool case — which, by the way, holds seven knives, a juicer, a microplane, scissors, arm bands, string, a mini-spatula and a swizzle.

On a blustery afternoon, Thrasher makes Express an Elixir, a labor-intensive concoction for which he simmers water with nutmeg, allspice, star anise, cardamom, cloves, brown sugar, apples and orange peels. Then he strains the reduction, adds simple syrup, sparkling water and a tablespoon of vitamin C powder, which he pours into a soda siphon for carbonation.

"It adds creaminess to the cocktail," said Thrasher. "I like playing with texture. We do it for food; why wouldn't we want to add texture to drinks?"

Thrasher sets a highball glass on the bar and adds one oversize ice cube. "Big ice lets the flavors show through," he said. He pours a jigger of Captain Morgan's into the glass and layers it with the creamy, fizzy concoction, and garnishes with a curlicue of orange peel. It's just lovely. "It smells like the season."

The second drink he orchestrates is an Irish Flip, a drink with eggs, cream and sugar. (The classic egg-nog is a flip, for example.)

Thrasher starts with a base of Power's Irish Whiskey that chills in a shaker cup on the rail. Then he cracks an egg into the cup. "Poly-face Farms has the best eggs in the world," he said of the organic farm in Augusta County, Va. "Look how orange a fresh yolk is."

He adds powdered sugar and cream, then shakes until ice forms outside the cup. He pours it into a cocktail glass, adds a touch of soda water, "to lighten everything up," and serves it with grated nutmeg.

"Despite that they're cold," says Thrasher, "these two drinks will definitely warm you up."

MELISSA MCCART (EXPRESS)

→ Restaurant Eve, 110 S. Pitt St., Alexandria; 703-706-0450, restauranteve.com.

WeekendPass



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Boy Meets Alien, Alien Loses Candy

➔ **THIS YEAR MARKS** the 25th anniversary of Steven Spielberg's heartwarming sci-fi landmark film "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial." It seems incredible now, but this treacly, beautifully made tearjerker about a boy, a bike, an alien and a candy product won four Oscars and more than 50 other awards and nominations for everything from special effects to storyline, acting and directing. Remember the magic — or bring someone raised on CGI to experience it for the first time — when the National Gallery of Art screens "E.T." as part of its Children's Film Program. *National Gallery of Art, 600 Constitution Ave. NW; Sat., 10:30 a.m.; Sun., 11:30 a.m., free; 202-789-3030. (Archives-Navy Memorial)* KENDRA DESROSIERS (EXPRESS)

TheScene

Continued from E17

Birchmere: Hot Tuna, 7:30 p.m., \$35.**Black Cat:** Rock 'N' Shop, garage sale, 8 p.m., free.**Blues Alley:** Dennis J, 8 & 10 p.m., \$18.**Crossroads:** "Dancehall Sundays," ladies free before 11 p.m. with pass from crossroadsclub.com.**DC9:** Fiction Plane, Death by Sexy, Justin Trawick, 7 p.m., \$12 (\$10 in advance).**Iota:** Menage, Chris Baron, 8:30 p.m., \$10.**Jammin' Java:** Tanglefoot, Mollie Obrien, 7:30 p.m., \$15.**Jaxx:** Float to the Bottom, a Hero from a Thousand Paces, American Diary, Dear Mistress, Right to Remain, Zombie Revenge, Fikistache, Alive & Well, Restless Street, 3 p.m., \$12 (\$10 in advance).**Kennedy Center:** Flowing with Terence Blanchard, 1 p.m., \$15. Messiah Sing-Along, 2 p.m., free. Beltway Brass Quintet, 6 p.m., free.**La Maison Française:** Jazz and the Diva, Didier Lockwood, Caroline Casadesus,

7 p.m., \$30.

9:30 Club: B2R Battle of the Bands, 1 p.m., \$4.**The Red and the Black:** Magick Bullet Theory, T-Shirt! T-Shirt!, Named Extinction, Darling, 9 p.m., \$8.**Strathmore:** MCYO: An Afternoon with the Classics, 3 p.m., \$18. MCYO: December Evening Spectacular, 7 p.m., \$18.**Velvet Lounge:** Ghastly City Sleep, Problems, the Aquarium, 9 p.m., \$10.**Zanzibar:** "Day Fete" and "Lime," free before 9 p.m., \$10 after.

Sight

The Alexandria Black History

Museum: "God Has Made a Way in Leesburg," the photographs of Allen D. Carter, through Jan. 20. 902 Wythe St., Alexandria; 703-838-4356, alexblackhistory.org.

Arlington Arts Center: "Hope and Fear," works showing concern for the environment, through Jan. 19. "Winter Solos," three solo exhibitions by

Continued on E25

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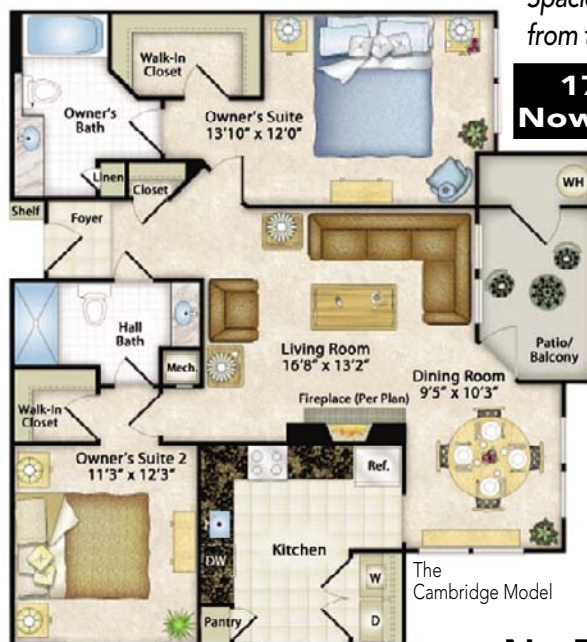


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6-102	Brighton	2 BR, 2 BA, 1050 Sq. Ft.	\$329,000	\$ _____
3-001	Cambridge	SOLD 2 BR, 2 BA, 1191 Sq. Ft.	\$339,000	\$ _____
8-001	Cambridge	2 BR, 2 BA, 1191 Sq. Ft.	\$342,500	\$ _____
3-203	Dartmouth	SOLD 2 BR, 2 BA, 1300 Sq. Ft.	\$404,000	\$ _____
1-202	Dartmouth	3 BR, 2 BA, 1300 Sq. Ft.	\$406,500	\$ _____

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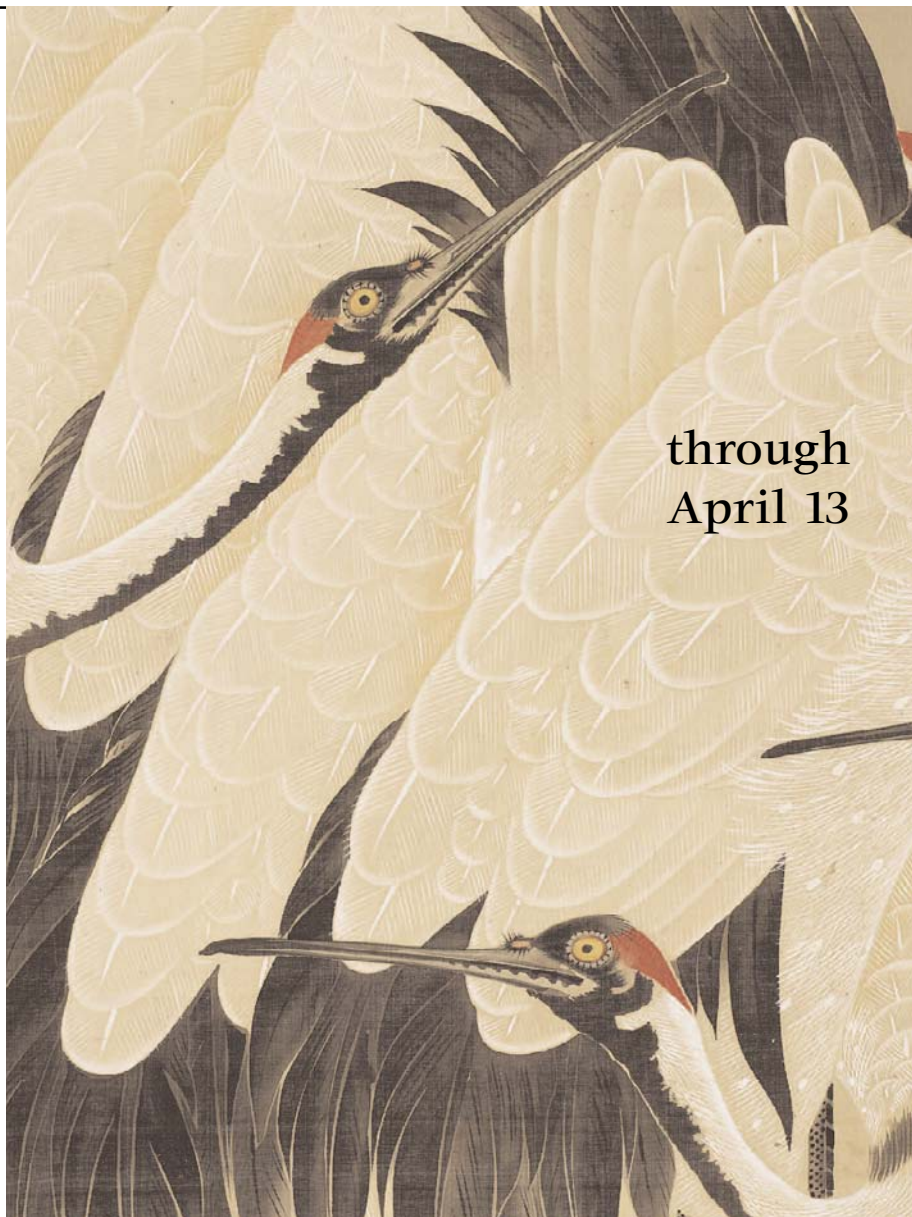
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Detail, *Seven Cranes*, by Itō Jakuchū (1716–1800). Japan, Edo period (1716–1799). Hanging scroll; colors on silk. Etsuko and Joe Price Collection, ELS2007.4.47. Organized by the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, *Patterned Feathers, Piercing Eyes: Edo Masters from the Price Collection* has been made possible with the generous support of the Anne van Biema Endowment Fund and Nikkei Inc.



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Heart/Mind: Beethoven's "Grosse Fuge" String Quartet and Haydn's String Quartet. 1/7

Here/There: Ravel's Piano Trio, Debussy's String Quartet, and Takemitsu's String Quartet No. 1, *A Way a Lone*, and *Between Tides* for Violin, Cello, and Piano. 1/14

Now/Then: Works by Reich, Lang, Gordon, and Wolfe, as well as Bartók's Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1. 1/28

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Entertainment **WeekendPass**

TheScene

Continued from E23

Jennifer Levonian, Joe Mannino and Young Kim, through Jan. 19. 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-248-6800, arlingtonarscenter.org.

The Art League Gallery: "Dark Matters," black-and-white photography by Frank Fierstein, through Jan. 7. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-683-1780.

ARTiculate Gallery: "Around the World and Back," this youth-run art gallery features works centering on travel. 1100 16th St. NW; 202-296-9100, wvsarts.org.

Corcoran Gallery of Art: "Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005," through Jan. 12. "Ansel Adams," 125 photographs from Adams' Lane Collection, through Jan. 27. "Impressionism, Realism, Modernism: Works on Paper From the

American Collection," more than 50 etchings, watercolors, drawings, lithographs and pastels, through Sun. 500 17th St. NW; 202-639-1700, corcoran.org.

Curator's Office: "Common Ground," works by Kathryn Cornelius, through Dec. 22. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-387-1008, curatorsoffice.com.

LAST CHANCE District Fine Arts: "Hit Me With Music!," music-related paintings, photographs and sculptures, through Sat. 1639 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-333-3545, dfaonline.com.

Ellipse Art Center: "The Narrative Figure," contemporary works on paper and in clay, through Jan. 19, 4350 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington; 703-228-7710, arlingtonarts.org.

Folger Shakespeare Library: "Marketing Shakespeare: The Boydell Gallery and Beyond" explores the birth of the Shakespeare market in England, through Jan. 5. 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-7077,

folger.edu.

Freer Gallery of Art: "Tales of the Brush: Literary Masterpieces in Chinese Painting," the confluence of writing and painting in Chinese culture, through Jan. 13. Jefferson Drive & 12th Street SW; 202-633-4880, asia.si.edu.

G Fine Art: "Linn Meyers: No Time Like the Present," surreal drawings, through Dec. 15. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-462-1601, gfineartdc.com.

Gallery Plan B: "Group Show," features works priced less than \$500, through Dec. 30. 1530 14th St. NW; 202-234-2711, galleryplanb.com.

H & F Fine Arts: "Deep Ellum and Acceptable Detours," Andrew Krieger examines the disconnect between humans and nature, through Jan. 19. "Memebiotics," Andrew Au incorporates science and biomechanics into his prints and drawings, through Jan. 19. 3311 Rhode

Continued on E26

National Museum of the American Indian

Holiday Art Market

Saturday, Dec. 8 to Sunday, Dec. 9

Washington, DC and New York City

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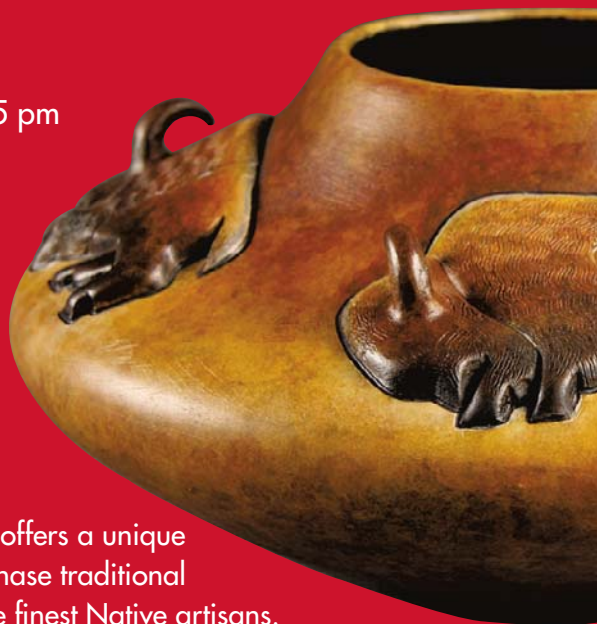
4th Street & Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC
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Image: Annegret Soltau, *Permanente Demonstration am 19.1.1976* (detail), 1976

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King's Singers

King's Singers *Joy to the World*

Friday, December 7 at 8 pm

"Still unmatched for their musicality and sheer ability to entertain," raves *The Times* of London about this incomparable vocal ensemble. In their traditional Yule concert, the King's Singers fill our concert hall with the very best of the holidays, singing tunes ancient to modern, and everything in between!

\$46, \$38, \$23



Rockapella

Rockapella *A Rockapella Holiday*

Saturday, December 8 at 3 pm and 8 pm

"Some say the best musical instrument of all is the human voice – if you've seen Rockapella you know that's the truth," says *USA Today*. Celebrate the season with this five-man pop music powerhouse, performing an evening of holiday classics in their *a cappella*, beat box style.

\$40, \$32, \$20



Canadian Brass

Canadian Brass *A Canadian Brass Christmas*

Friday, December 14 at 8 pm

The versatile, witty, and beloved Canadian Brass returns for its popular annual holiday concert. Don't miss this festive event – a chance to celebrate the season with the entire family!

\$50, \$42, \$25

Performance Sponsor: BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON



Capitol Bones Big Band

Metropolitan Jazz and the Capitol Bones Big Band *A Stan Kenton Christmas*

Saturday, December 15 at 8 pm

Two of the area's jazz powerhouses join forces for an evening of swingin' holiday music! Featuring top jazz musicians and a slew of new twists on holiday favorites, this is a fun and festive event for the whole family!

\$40, \$32, \$20

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LIVE FOLK | SHHH!



COURTESY THINKPRESS

BIG NAMES, GREAT TASTE: The folk duo of Bethany Yarrow (folkies, please note last name) and Rufus Cappadocia perform at a house show on Saturday. Yarrow's sweet, silky vocals and Cappadocia's bravura cello make a thoroughly compelling pairing. House shows can't accommodate hordes, so see angelfire.com/folk/dawsonconcerts/ for information.

TheScene

Continued from E25

Island Ave., Mount Rainier; 301-887-0080, hffinearts.com.

Hemphill Gallery: "Mindless Pleasures," James Huckenpahler's 3-D digital renderings. "Furnishing the Self — Upholstering the Soul," David Byrne explores the majesty of the chair through photography, embroidery and sculptures, both through Dec. 22. 1515 14th St. NW; 202-234-5601, hemphillfinearts.com.

Hillyer Art Space: "Beyond the Margins: Selections From Soweto, South Africa," art by black South Africans depicting their struggle for equality, through Dec. 14. "Which Came First? Drawing Conclusions," glasswork by Kari Minnick, through Dec. 20. 9 Hillyer Court NW; 202-338-0680, artsandartists.org/artspace/.

Hirshhorn Museum: "Morris Louis Now: An American Master Revisited," a concise view of the artist's career, through Jan. 6. Independence Avenue & 7th Street SW; 202-633-4674, hirshhorn.si.edu.

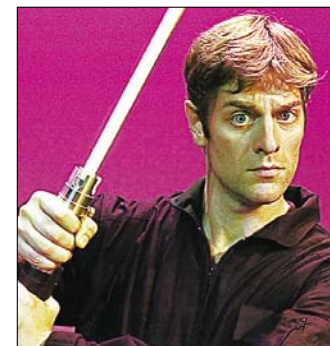
Honfleur Gallery: "Die Umwelt," a solo exhibit by Arie Mandelbaum, through Jan. 12. 1241 Good Hope Road SE; 202-889-5000, honfleurgallery.com.

LAST CHANCE Irvine Contemporary: "Kahn and Selesnick, Eisbergfreistadt," photographs and installations depicting "Iceberg Free State," through Sat. 1412 14th St. NW; 202-332-8767, irvinecontemporary.com.

Japan Information and Culture Cen-

Friday in

The Washington Post | Weekend Section



Forcical Humor:

Charlie Ross stars in 'One-Man Star Wars Trilogy' at Woolly Mammoth Theatre. | *On Stage*

→ Also, a preview of all holiday events; Ceviche House in Rockville; Zoolights at the Zoo.

ter: "Japanese Traditional Pottery," modern takes on traditional Japanese style, through Dec. 14. 1155 21st St. NW; 202-238-6949, us.emb-japan.go.jp/jjcc.

The Jerusalem Fund Gallery: "Bethlehem Under Siege: The Decline of Christianity at Its Birthplace," photographs and

TheScene

video of modern-day Bethlehem, through Jan. 11. 2425 Virginia Ave. NW; 202-338-1958, thejerusalemfund.com/gallery.

Katzen Art Center: "Abu Ghraib," Fernando Botero responds to the Abu Ghraib incidents with his paintings, through Dec. 30. "Jules Olitski: Late Sculpture," from the Cyclops series, through Dec. 30. "Claiming Space: Some American Feminist Originators" features works from early feminist artists, through Jan. 27. "Dark Metropolis: Irving Norman's Social Surrealism," images of the horrors of war, through Jan. 27. "Sculpture/Architecture," site-specific outdoor sculptures, through Jan. 27. 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-885-1300, american.edu/katzen.

Keck Center: "The Last Iceberg," Camille Seaman's photographs of the disappearing icebergs, through Feb. 26. 500 Fifth St. NW; 202-334-2436, nas.edu.

League of Reston Artists: "ArtDe-Fined," artists take on their own studios as inspiration, through Jan. 4; 12006 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston; 703-200-2620, leagueofrestonartists.org.

Marsha Mateyka Gallery: "William T. Wiley," a solo exhibition of acrylic work, through Dec. 22. 2010 R St. NW; 202-328-0088, marshamateykgallery.com.

Meridian International Center: "Life at the Edge: The Big Thaw," photographs showing the effects of global warming, through Jan. 20. 1624 Crescent Place NW; 202-939-5568, meridian.org.

LAST CHANCE National Academy of Sciences: "Black Maps," photographs by David Maisel, through Dec. 5. 2100 C St. NW; 202-334-2415, nasonline.org.

National Air and Space Museum: "Treasures of American History," many of the National Museum of American History's choicest items — from Dorothy's ruby slippers to Jacqueline Kennedy's inaugural ball gown — find a temporary home, ongoing. "America By Air," the history of passenger air travel in the U.S., ongoing. 6th Street & Independence Avenue NW; 202-633-1000, nasm.si.edu.

National Archives: "School House to White House," a family-friendly collection of photos and documents from the childhoods of U.S. presidents, through Jan. 1, 2008. "The Charters of Freedom," "A New World Is at Hand," "The Public Vaults," the Magna Carta and other treasures, ongoing. Constitution Avenue between 7th & 9th streets NW; 202-357-5300, archives.gov.

National Building Museum: "Lasting Foundations: The Art of Architecture in Africa," a survey of African architecture

through the ages, through Jan. 20. "David Macaulay: The Art of Drawing Architecture," playful and precise drawings of architecture and engineering, through Jan. 21. "Marcel Breuer: Design and Architecture," explores houses, shapes and volumes, through Feb. 17. 401 F St. NW; 202-272-2448, nbm.org.

National Gallery of Art: "The Art of the American Snapshot, 1888-1978: From the Collection of Robert E. Jackson" chronicles the evolution of the photograph through history, through Dec. 31. "J.M.W. Turner," the largest collection of works by the legendary landscape artist in the U.S. "Edward Hopper: An Introduction to the Exhibition," a comprehensive exhibition of Hopper's work, through Jan. 21. "Exceptional Baroque Woodcuts" features work from European baroque artists, through March 30. "Five Decades of Robert Rauschenberg Prints" features lithographs, screen-prints and intaglios, through March 30. 600 Constitution Ave. NW; 202-289-3360, nga.gov.

National Geographic Museum: "Journey to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," explore the Arctic through photographs and items from the 1956 Murie expedition through the Arctic, through Jan. 27. "Crittcercam: The World Through Animal Eyes," a video- and data-gathering tool worn by wild animals offers insights into animal behaviors, through Jan. 8. "Journey to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," through Jan. 27. "Extreme Dinosaur," features fossils from Nigersaurus, a gigantic flying reptile, through March 18. 17th & M streets NW; 202-857-7588.

National Museum of African Art: "Art of Being Tuareg: Sahara Nomads in a Modern World," features jewelry, clothing and leatherwork of the Tuareg people, through Jan. 27. "African Vision: The Walt Disney-Tishman African Art Collection," through Sept. 7, 2008. 950 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-1000, nmafa.si.edu.

National Museum of the American Indian: "Identity by Design: Tradition, Change and Celebration in Native Women's Dresses," through Jan. 2. 4th Street & Independence Avenue SW; 202-633-6985, nmai.si.edu.

National Museum of Health and Medicine: "Estrogen Tales: The Untold Story of Nine Molecules ... and How They Bonded," find out the molecular makeup of the female hormone, ongoing. "Expression of Hope," works by artists suffering from lysosomal storage disorders, through March 3, 2008. 6900 Georgia Ave. NW, nmhm.washingtondc.museum.

National Museum of Women in the Arts: "WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution," through Dec. 16. 1250 New York Ave. NW; 202-783-5000, nmwa.org.

National Portrait Gallery: "Let Your

STAGE | DRIFTING AWAY



LOST LADY: At D.C. Arts Center, the Didactic Theatre stages Kenneth Lonnen's "The Waverly Gallery," a poignant and funny portrait of a woman struggling to keep her soul intact as her mind betrays her to Alzheimer's.

COURTESY DIDACTIC THEATRE COMPANY

Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits" through March 2; "Legacy: Spain and the United States in the Age of Independence, 1763-1848," portraits and original documents surrounding Spain and the Revolutionary War, through Feb. 10. "One Life: Katharine Hepburn," portraits and Hepburn's Oscars, through Oct. 5, 2008. "Portraiture Now: Framing Memory," portraits of iconic figures including Martin Luther King Jr., Frida Kahlo, Jacqueline Kennedy, Cesar Chavez and Josephine Baker, through Jan. 6. 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, npg.si.edu.

Nevin Kelly Gallery: "Attainable Art," features works priced less than \$1,500 by

Continued on E28

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KINDRED SPIRITS

Asher B. Durand and the American Landscape



Now through January 6, 2008

Thursday, December 13, 5:30 p.m. (free)

Gallery Talk: *Progress as Metaphor*

Senior Curator William Truettner discusses Durand's masterpiece, *Progress (the Advance of Civilization)*. Meet in G Street lobby.

Wednesday, December 19, noon (free)

Painting Demonstration

Ross Merrill, painter and chief of conservation at the National Gallery of Art, demonstrates outdoor painting using Durand's palette as inspiration.

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Kindred Spirits: Asher B. Durand and the American Landscape has been organized by the Brooklyn Museum and was made possible by the Henry Luce Foundation. The Lunder Foundation, Oriana and Arnold McKinnon, and Clarice and Bob Smith support the presentation at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Asher B. Durand, *Progress (The Advance of Civilization)*, 1853, oil on canvas, Warner Collection of Gulf States Paper Corporation

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LIVE SMART-POP | THINK, DANCE, THINK



CHRIS SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

CLEVER BOOTS: Brooklyn's post-klezmer eclecticists One Ring Zero hit the Millennium Stage on Thursday. This hipster duet is a favorite of the literati, but you don't have to pal around with Dave Eggers (although they do) to appreciate ORZ's party pop shot through with the anxieties of modern life.

TheScene

Continued from E27

fine local artists including Sondra Larkin, Laurel Hausler and Elyn Weiss, through Dec. 30. 1517 U St. NW; 202-232-3464, nevinkellygallery.com.

The Phillips Collection: "Contemporary Photographs from the Litchenberg Collection," through Jan. 6. "Impressionists by the Sea," a look at the movement's beachy works, through Jan. 13. 1600 21 St. NW; 202-387-2151, phillipscollection.org.

LAST CHANCE Randall Scott Gallery: "Lori Nix: The City," depictions of a post-apocalyptic city meticulously rendered, through Sat. "Dane Picard, New Video," through Sat. 1326 14th St. NW; 202-332-0806, randallscottgallery.com.

Renwick Gallery: "Going West! Quilts and Community," quilts from the frontier, through Jan 21. Pennsylvania Avenue & 17th St. NW; 202-633-1000.

Smithsonian American Art Museum: "Celebrating the Lucelia Artist Award, 2001-2006," features the work of artists who have won the award since 2000, through June 22; "Kindred Spirits: Asher B. Durand and the American Landscape," through Jan. 6; "Over the Top: American Posters From World War I," inspirational posters in support of our boys over there, through Feb. 3. 8th & F streets NW; 202-633-1000, americanart.si.edu.

Studio Gallery: "Sizing Up," large and small works, through Dec. 23. 2108 R St.

NW; 202-232-8738, studiogallerydc.com.

The Textile Museum: "Textiles of Klimt's Vienna," the artistic values of early 20th-century Austria, through Jan. 6. "Ahead of His Time: The Collecting Vision of George Hewitt Myers" explores the collection of the museum founder, through Jan. 6. "Private Pleasures: Collecting Contemporary Textile Art," textiles of Washington collectors, through Feb. 17. 2320 S St. NW; 202-667-0441, textilemuseum.org.

LAST CHANCE Touchstone Gallery: "East to West," landscapes by Betsy Forster, through Sun. "Etchings by Stanislav Nikireyev and Yuriy Nozdryn," through Sun. "Removed and Recycled," mixed-media texture work by Jon Wassom, through Sun. 406 7th St. NW; 202-347-2787, touchstonegallery.com.

U.S. Botanic Gardens: "A Midnight Clear," winter landscape displays for the holidays, through Jan. 6. "Glorious Winter," nature photography by Roger Foley and Barbara Southworth, through Jan. 6. 100 Maryland Ave. SW; 202-225-8333, usbg.gov.

Washington Printmakers Gallery: "Hanging in There" prints by Pauline Jakobsberg, through Dec. 30. 1732 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-332-7757, washingtonprintmakers.com.

VSA Arts: "Driven," an exhibition of lively, revealing work by emerging artists with disabilities, through Dec. 31. S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-628-2800, vsarts.org.

Zenith Gallery: "Low Country," works depicting South Carolina life, through

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Dec. 30. 413 7th St. NW: 202-783-2963, zenithgallery.com.

Stage

Alone It Stands: Keegan Theatre presents the uplifting story of the Munster Rugby Team, through Dec. 15, \$20. Theatre on the Run, 3700 Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington; 703-892-0202, keegantheatre.com.

Antigone: The Forum Theatre reimagines Sophocles' tragedy, through Dec. 30, \$18-\$20. H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE; 1-800-494-8497, forumtd.org.

A Visit From St. Nicholas: Find out what happens the night before Christmas, through Dec. 16, \$10. Silver Spring Stage,

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NICE FLAG: Slambovia is full of gypsies, escaped carnies and an enchanted Irish snake in the form of a woman. The country's state band is Gandalf Murphy and the Slambovian Circus of Dreams, and its psychedelic backwoods glam-folk is like nothing else. Get beguiled at Iota on Saturday.

Colesville Road & University Blvd., Silver Spring; 301-593-6036, ssstage.org.

LAST CHANCE Avenue Q: Don't bring the kids to this Tony-winning take on Sesame Street, through Sun., \$41.50-\$151.50. National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 800-447-7400, nationaltheatre.org.

LAST CHANCE Babes in Toyland: The Washington Savoyards perform this Mother Goose medley, through Sun., \$35-\$45. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE; 202-399-7993, atlasarts.org.

Christmas Carol 1941: Dickens' classic set in wartime D.C., through Dec. 30, \$59-\$74. Arena Stage, 1101 6th St. SW; 202-488-3300, arenastage.org.

Edward II: Shakespeare Theatre Company takes on Marlowe's lurid play, through Jan. 6, \$23.50-\$79.75. Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St. NW; 202-547-1122, shakespearetheatre.org.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Farafina Kan: Continued on E30

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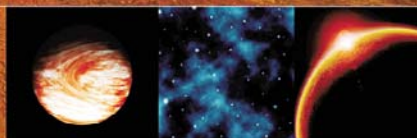
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TheScene

Continued from E29

Dance and music of the Mandingue people of West Africa, Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 4 p.m., \$22. Dance Place, 3225 8th St. NE; 202-269-1600, danceplace.org.

Fiddler on the Roof: The exuberant musical about love and family, through Jan. 6, \$25-\$46. Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, Md.; 301-924-3400, olneytheatre.org.

LAST CHANCE Fuego Flamenco 3: Famous faces from the flamenco world, through Sat., \$25. Gala Theatre, 3333 14th St. NW; 202-234-7174, galatheatre.org.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Gumdrops and the Funny Uncle: A holiday show about alternative families for children, by the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 3 p.m., \$16. Round House Theatre, 8461 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; 240-644-1100, danceexchange.org.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Hansel and Gretel: The Washington National Opera presents this sweet story, Fri. 7:30 p.m.,

Sat. 2 & 7 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m., \$10-\$50. Lincoln Theatre, 1215 U St. NW; 202-397-7328, thelincolntheatre.org.

The House of Yes: The story of a dysfunctional Mclean family, through Jan. 13, pay-what-you-can this weekend. Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark St., Crystal City; 703-418-4808, washingtonshakespeare.org.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change: A musical comedy about romance, through Feb. 16, \$55-\$75. Bethesda Theatre, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda; 301-657-7827.

Jungle Books: The CityDance Ensemble tells Kipling's tale through dance, through Dec. 16, \$30. Lansburgh Theatre, 450 7th St. NW; 202-547-1122, wpas.org.

Kafka's Dick: Alan Bennet's acerbic play, staged by Washington Shakespeare Company, through Jan. 13, \$25-\$35. Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark St., Crystal City; 703-418-4808, washingtonshakespeare.org.

FRIDAY ONLY My Well Schooled Heart: Michael Vitaly Sazonov's one-man musical, 9 p.m., \$22.50. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE; 202-

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399-7993, atlas arts.org.

The Maids: The Scena Theatre stages Jean Genet's class parable about rebellious domestic workers, through Dec. 16, \$25-\$32. Warehouse Theater, 1021 7th St. NW; 703-683-2824, scenatheatre.org.

Shining City: The story of a haunted Dublin, through Dec. 16, \$39-\$57. Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; 202-232-3300, studiotheatre.org

LAST CHANCE Now What?: Josh Lefkowitz's observations on life, through Sun., \$18. Woolly Mammoth Theatre, 641 D St. NW; 202-393-3939,

6200, classika.org.

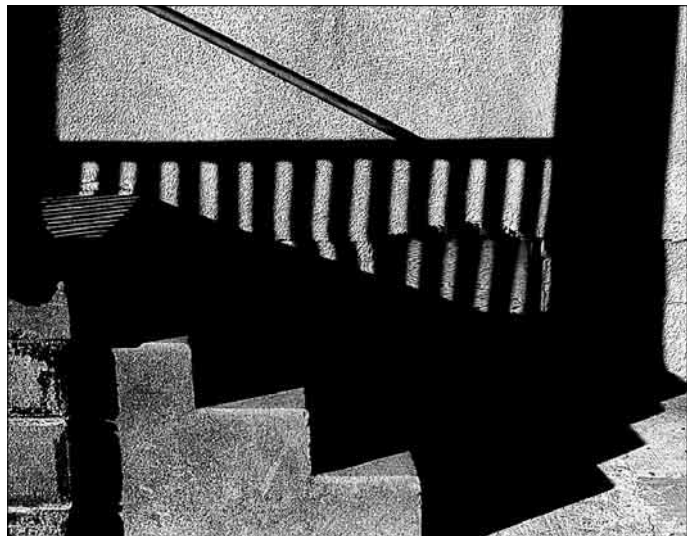
Spunk: Three of Zora Neale Hurston's short stories adapted into one musical, through Dec. 23, \$20. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE; 202-399-7993, atlas arts.org.

LAST CHANCE The Studio: This dance-play follows a choreographer as he attempts to produce his masterpiece, through Sun., \$41-\$63. Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-845-0236, signature-theatre.org.

Tamburlaine: A hero rises from thief to emperor in Christopher Marlowe's play, through Jan. 6, \$23.50-\$79.75. Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St. NW; 202-547-1122, shakespearetheatre.org.

Twice Upon a Time: Dr. Seuss' The

PHOTOGRAPHY | FOOTSTEPS IN THE DARK



FRANK FIERSTEIN

SHADOWLAND: Frank Fierstein's photographs depict a world plunged in shadows, a realm in which the subconscious is made concrete. "Dark Matters," at the Art League Gallery, condenses all that is menacing and liberating about urban anonymity in noir films into a series of powerful images.

woollymammoth.net.

The Nutcracker: The Washington Ballet, through Dec. 23, \$30-\$90. Warner Theatre, 13th St. & E St. NW; 202-783-4000, warnertheatre.com.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Nutcracker:

The Youth Ensemble and the American Ballet Theater perform an abbreviated version of the ballet for children, Sat. & Sun. 3 & 7 p.m., \$25. American Dance Institute, 1570 E Jefferson St., Rockville; 301-984-3003, americandance.org.

The Santaland Diaries: A sardonic take on the holidays, as presented by the Rep Stage, through Dec. 23, \$17-\$25. Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia; 410-772-4900, repstage.org.

The Snow Child: Julia Tasheva performs this children's wintery puppet show, through Jan. 6, \$15. Classika Theatre, 4041 Campbell Ave., Arlington; 703-824-

Lorax and The Emperor's New

Clothes: New musical takes on old classics, through Jan. 13, \$10-\$20. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda; 301-280-1660, imaginationstage.org.

The Waverly Gallery: Didactic Theatre Company presents Kenneth Lonergan's play, a tribute to his grandmother, through Dec. 15. D.C. Arts Center, 2438 18th St. NW; 462-7833, didactictheatre.com.

LAST CHANCE The Women of Brewster Place: This musical chronicles the lives of 10 African-American women in an urban housing complex, through Sun., \$55-\$74. Arena Stage, 1101 6th St. SW; 202-488-3300, arenastage.org.

Workin' Overtime: Washington Improv Theater shows what happens behind the scenes in shops, through Dec. 29, \$5-\$12. Source Theater, 1835 14th St. NW; 202-315-1318, washingtonimprovtheatre.com.



ROCK & ROLL HOTEL



- THU 12/6 TRAILER TRASH NIGHT** @ The Hotel Bar with Dj Chris P
- FRI 12/7 HOT ROD CIRCUIT** w/ Olympia, Pictures In Pieces, Plane and Pilot
- SAT 12/8** An Evening with **RRIICCEE** (featuring acclaimed filmmaker and musician Vincent Gallo & founding guitarist for Hole, Eric Erlandson)
POW WOW FREE AT THE HOTEL BAR
- SUN 12/9** Special screening of **JOHNNY 316** featuring Vincent Gallo
- TUE 12/11 THE MOST SERENE REPUBLIC** w/ Bellflur, Watch Man Walk
- THU 12/13 BOOT MAMA FLORA'S ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BASH**
Curbside Revenge, Brain Damaged, Babies With Rabies, Pessimist Parade, The Screws, Fierce Allegiance
- FRI 12/14 MOBIUS BAND** w/ Middle Distance Runner, The Epochs, Ravens and Chimes
HEAVYWAX Free @ the Hotel Bar
- SAT 12/15** Garutachi Presents: **DIDI GUTMAN & JESSE MURPHY OF BRAZILIAN GIRLS** (DJ SET) w/ Dj Ris Richards (Ex Q and Not U) + Resident Djs: Cassidy and Austin
- SUN 12/16 BODOG BATTLEBODOG**
- TUE 12/18 SOUL GLO** Presented by RockCandy Productions: Djs: The Arch Angel Gabriel, Keenan, Rich Edward
- FRI 12/21 HAPPY FKX-XMAS** featuring: **SEE-I** (full band, live performance - record release party) **MAT THE ALIEN** (Vancouver, Canada) **FORT KNOX FIVE, SLANT & BJOO + REX RIDDEM**
- SAT 12/22** A Festive Night Out with **THE DENIM BAR** featuring **THE DRUGSTORE COWBOYS** w/ Dj Rob Wonder + Dj Tanner
- FRI 12/28 CAUSTIC KINDNESS**
DEEP SANG @ The Hotel Bar FREE 21+
- SAT 12/29 RATTLER** w/ Death By Sexy, Dj Hey Sailor

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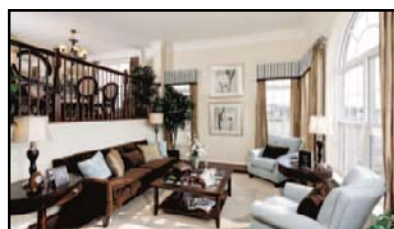
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